

Today's Advertisements.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, on WEDNESDAY, the 27th June, 1900, at 11 A.M.,

CENTRAL POLICE STATION. A LARGE QUANTITY OF SURPLUS STORES.

80 MAUSER RIFLES, 137 MUZZLE LOADING RIFLES, 1 WINCHESTER RIFLE, 300 REVOLVERS and 10514 S. BAYONETS, RIFLE and REVOLVER AMMUNITION, GUNPOWDER, COPPER, LEAD, IRON, RICE, SUGAR, RICKSHAS, &c., &c.

TERMS: As Usual. HUGHES & HUGHES, Government Auctioneers, Hongkong, 23rd June, 1900. [794b]

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA. THE Company's Steamship

"SUZUKI," Captain Tadd, will be despatched as above on TUESDAY, the 26th instant, at Noon. For Freight or Passage, apply to JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., General Managers, Hongkong, 23rd June, 1900. [794b]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR MANILA AND ILOILO. THE Company's Steamship

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THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

STEAM FOR STRAITS, CEYLON, AUSTRALIA, INDIA, ADEN, EGYPT, MEDITERRANEAN PORTS, PLYMOUTH AND LONDON. (Through Bills of Lading issued for BATAVIA, PERSIAN GULF, CONTINENTAL AND AMERICAN PORTS.)

THE Steamship

"BENGAL," Captain S. Barcham, carrying Her Majesty's Mails, will be despatched from this for BOMBAY, on SATURDAY, the 27th July, at Noon, taking Passengers and Cargo for the above Ports.

Silk and Valuables, all Cargo for France, and Tea for London (under arrangement) will be transhipped at Colombo into a steamer proceeding direct to Marseilles and London; other Cargo for London, &c., will be conveyed via Bombay with Transhipment.

Parcels will be received at this Office until 4 P.M. the day before sailing. The Contents and Value of all Packages are required.

Shippers are particularly requested to note the terms and conditions of the Company's Bills of Lading. For further Particulars, apply to A. M. MARSHALL, Acting Superintendent, Hongkong, 23rd June, 1900. [5]

IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINE.

STEAM FOR SHANGHAI, NAKASAKI, HIOGO AND YOKOHAMA.

THE Imperial German Mail Steamship

"STUTTGART," of the NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD, Captain P. Grosch, due here with the outward German Mail about the 27th instant, will leave for the above places about 21 hours after arrival. NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

For further Particulars, apply to MELCHERS & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 23rd June, 1900. [22]

Intimations.

NOTICE.

THE OFFICES of the "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" have this Day been removed to No. 50, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, Second Floor, (the premises formerly occupied by Messrs. POWELL & CO.) to which address all communications should be addressed.

ETH. F. SKERTCHLY, Manager, Hongkong, 1st May, 1899.

AN APPEAL.

THE SUPERIORESS of the ITALIAN CONVENT, CAINE ROAD, begs most respectfully to APPEAL to the Residents of Hongkong and the Coast Ports, for their kind patronage and support, and desires to state that she will be pleased to receive orders for all kinds of NEEDLE WORK.

Gentlemen's Shirts made to order, and Cuffs and Collars renewed on old ones. Ladies and Children's Under-clothing, Lingerie, Dresses, and all kinds of Embroidery. Materials can be supplied if required.

The Superioress will also be most grateful for any PARER, or old ENVELOPES to be made into Books for the Children of the Poor Schools, who are taught by the Sisters. Hongkong, 22nd April, 1892. [493]

Intimation.

A. S. WATSON & Co., LIMITED.

OUR AERATED WATER FACTORY

has been recently greatly enlarged and refitted with the best English Machinery, embodying the latest improvements in the trade.

THE PUREST INGREDIENTS only are used, and the utmost care and cleanliness exercised in the manufacture throughout.

THE WATER USED is specially filtered and proved by repeated analyses to be absolutely pure.

FOR COAST PORTS Waters are packed and placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and the full amount allowed for Packages and Empties when received back in good order.

Orders through Local Post or by Telegram receive prompt attention.

Counterfoil Order Books supplied on application.

Registered Telegraphic Address: "Dispensary, Hongkong."

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED, AERATED WATER MANUFACTURERS.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1900.

We publish in another part of this issue a letter signed by a number of gentlemen resident in this Colony, well known for their sound common sense, inviting the support of all the members of the Community to a scheme for the formation of a sort of Home Guard, to form a reserve behind the regular and voluntary forces for the defence of the Colony in the case either of domestic enemies or of foreign foes. There can be no doubt but that some such force is urgently required and that every man in the colony, certainly every British subject, should be provided with arms and be trained in the use of arms so as, in case of necessity, to be in a position to aid in the defence of the island.

We are for all practical purposes at war with China at the present moment. Her regular forces have turned the guns of the Taku Forts upon our ships and lives have been lost; the forts have been captured and are now held by our men, and a naval brigade is pushing on to Peking by force of arms under our Admiral. The various Chinese Armies, notably that at Shanghai, are busy preparing munitions of war for use against the foreigners and it is reported that the Bogue Forts have orders to oppose the passage to Canton of any British men of war. We know that others were given not long since to the Governors and Viceroy along the Yangtze to be prepared to oppose our ships at all hazards in certain eventualities.

We are not merely at war with Official China. We may find ourselves in a state of hostility to-morrow with every Chinaman in the Empire. Boxers are not to be found only in Peking. The feelings that animate the Boxers are to be found everywhere in China and in greater or lesser degree in every class of the population. The neighbouring provinces are seething with unrest and discontent and a long course of feeble and uncertain government has given the troublesome classes a certain amount of confidence in themselves and a certain audacity. Our own newly acquired territories are not yet brought quite under control and they have most turbulent neighbours to the North still sore from the effects of their recent defeat. In the Colony we have a horde of Chinese with nothing to lose and everything to gain from a riot, ignorant, easily led, full of the strangest ideas about us and our doings and capable on any sudden provocation, however imaginary, to violent outbreaks. All things are possible and the Colony might without warning be called on for help from Canton and at the same time compelled to look to its own safety and protection. The Garrison is grievously depleted. It is, in some three weeks time, to be replenished to more than its former strength, but we cannot count on having these men even for a day. Urgent demands from the north may compel them to move on. The Colony in its own interests and in the interests of the Empire must be prepared to defend itself.

We have a fair volunteer force but it might be better prepared and more numerous than it is. It is utterly without mobility in the military sense, i.e. it has no camp, equipment or transport even on paper, and it might find itself any day on campaign at the other side of the opposite hills.

A Home Guard, in the sense of the letter to which we refer, will be a very valuable addition to our means of defence, especially against any local disturbances. The idea

of breaking it up into local associations, one of Peak Residents, one of City Residents, one of Kowloonites is good. The Government will doubtless provide it with arms but, if it is to give any really effective training in arms to its members, it will, we are sure, have to provide ammunition and ranges at its own expense, or, by public subscription. It will not even get from Government a sufficiency of ammunition for any adequate practice and, before the Government can find and furnish a range all China will have undergone a revolution or two and Russia will have been for some time in possession of Peking.

The Home Guard must do all they possibly can for themselves and depend on the Government for nothing.

We most strongly recommend the formation of the Home Guard on the lines indicated, and the raising by subscription in the Colony—we will head the list with \$100 if only to make a beginning—of a fund for providing that Home Guard with ranges, ammunition and such an amount of field equipment and necessities as will enable it to go on night duty or on duty anywhere in the island for a day or two, without having to depend on the Military Store Department for what is not there. The smallest and handiest description of machine gun might also usefully be added to each unit as part of its equipment.

As to ranges, Swiss Ranges must do. They are sufficient for all practical purposes. If our Home Guards are able to put six shots a minute into a 2 ft. target at 400 yards they will be quite good enough for all practical purposes. Familiarity with the weapon, and readiness of hand and eye is needful. Suitable ground for short ranges is available anywhere. Constructed Swiss fashion, with modifications, they are absolutely safe. They can be open all day. As to drill, if anything effective is to be done it will have to be in the early morning. The day's work in Hongkong is too hard and the evening too short for drills in the afternoon.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Situation.

To say the least of it, the situation in the north is decidedly puzzling. We were informed the other day that no less than seven thousand Russian troops had arrived at Tientsin, yet our Shanghai Correspondent wired yesterday to the effect that the Chinese were bombarding the foreign settlement at Tientsin with forty-pounder guns and had destroyed the United States Consulate. To-day we hear that ammunition is running short and the Russians are hard pressed, while most of the concession is in flames.

The question that naturally suggests itself is what has become of the seven thousand Russian troops and how is it that they allowed the Chinese to bring heavy guns within range of the foreign settlement? We have had no news of a Russian force starting for Peking or to the relief or assistance of Admiral Seymour's column, yet it seems that the bulk of them must have left Tientsin, or, how is the bombardment to be accounted for?

The fact that forty-pounders were used in the bombardment serves to show that the Chinese Imperial troops in the vicinity of Tientsin have joined the Boxers. It is absurd to suppose that the Boxers themselves were in possession of heavy ordnance and it is plain that it could only have been obtained from the troops, and that by their joining forces with the members of this anti-foreign society.

If one body of troops have joined the Boxers we think that there can be very little hope of the remainder holding aloof, and in all probability the allied Powers have now the whole of the northern Chinese army opposing them, which will mean that a very large force indeed will be required to settle matters once more, and the settlement will take months, perhaps even two or three years.

Li Hsueh-chang is said to be going north to strive to reduce the so-called rebellious element to order, but we think that the time has passed for even his help to be of any avail. He would do much better to remain in Canton and turn his attention to maintaining order in the Two Kwangs, for the Chinese are apprehensive of his departure being the signal for a general rising in the south. If such a rising takes place Hongkong will be in anything but an enviable position. Our food supply will be cut off by the closing of Canton, servants and Chinese in European employ may be expected to desert and business will be brought practically to a standstill, as has been the case in the northern ports. We must also be on the qui vive for disturbances breaking out both in the Hinterland and in Hongkong itself, and we are pleased to see that the Volunteers at least are alive to the danger. Steps should be immediately taken to ensure the safety of the Colony. The police force should be increased and the military forces held in readiness to act at a moment's notice. We do not want to see another Tientsin fiasco in the face of a Chinese rising.

British North Borneo.

The murder of Mr. H. S. HAYNES, Magistrate in charge of Gantian, by Dyak Police, which was reported by our Labuan Correspondent the other day, serves to show how deeply the rot has sunk into British North Borneo. We remarked some time ago that if North Borneo was to be saved, Mr. HUGH CLIFFORD, the new Governor was the man to do it, but apparently he has arrived upon the scene too late. The mere fact of Dyak Police stooping to murder and murdering a European officer shows that there must be something radically wrong somewhere, for the Dyaks have invariably been most loyal and have proved their loyalty to the British upon very many occasions.

We fear that the reign of the British North Borneo Company is practically at an end. It may not suit the book of the Home Government to take the country over just at present, but we think that so soon as the South African and China troubles have been settled that the Company will cease to exist. They are incapable of protecting life and property and they must go.

TELEGRAMS.

Special to the "Hongkong Telegraph."

SPECIAL TELEGRAM.

THE TROUBLE IN THE NORTH.

BOMBARDMENT OF TIENTSIN. CASUALTIES HEAVY. REINFORCEMENTS URGENTLY NEEDED.

RUSSIANS HARD PRESSED.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SHANGHAI, June 23rd.

2.48 p.m.

A despatch received here yesterday from the British Consul at Tientsin states that reinforcements are urgently needed.

The casualties are heavy and the supply of ammunition is insufficient.

The Russians are very hard pressed.

The Chinese troops are keeping up an incessant fire from large guns on the concession.

The houses in the concession are nearly all burnt.

Received 3.15 p.m.

Published 5.30 p.m.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE WAR.

AN ARMISTICE.

LONDON, June 21st.

General Buller wiring from Sandpruit Station on the 20th inst., says that his head quarters are two miles N. W. of the railway. An informal armistice for five days has been concluded with Commandant Botha, at the expiration of which Lord Roberts will take vigorous action.

GENERAL.

THE UNITED STATES.

MCKINLEY'S POLICY APPROVED BY THE REPUBLICANS.

The Republican Convention at Philadelphia has adopted a platform strongly approving of President McKinley's domestic and foreign policy, and declaring a steadfast adherence to the gold standard.

LATER.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced of Count Muraviev, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

FURTHER RE-INFORCEMENT FOR THE BRITISH CHINA SQUADRON.

H. M. S. Ships *Isis* and *Dido* have been ordered to China.

THE UNITED STATES.

The Republican Convention has unanimously nominated McKinley as President and Roosevelt Vice President.

WEATHER REPORT.

The Observatory report says:—On the 23rd at 11.55 a.m. the barometer has fallen in the North, risen in Formosa and on the S. coast of China. Pressure remains high in the Pacific to the S.E. of the Loochoos, and a depression is moving Eastwards over the N.E. coast of China. Gradients slight for S.E. and S. winds in S. China and the N. part of the China Sea. FORECAST:—Moderate S.E. winds; fair.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

PARCELS by the s.s. *Paletta* are now ready for delivery.

A SHANGHAI paper understands that the French Volunteer Company in the Model Settlement has just obtained, from Tonkin two mitrailleuses, and that the services of a resident, lately an artillery officer in the French army, has been obtained to train the volunteers in their use.

The Band of the Hongkong Regiment will play at the Hongkong Hotel this evening, from 8 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

PROGRAMME.

1.—March: "Fra Diavolo".....Auber.
2.—Overture: "Sancho Panza".....Williams.
3.—Selection: "H. Franture".....Verdi.
4.—Valse: "The Gay Parisienne".....Kieffer.
5.—Preliminary: "Before his Window".....Nehf.
6.—Serenade: "Ma Me Tante".....Grieg.
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

WALTER HARRIS, seaman of the British barque *Gleneshe*, was this morning charged before the Harbour Master with wilfully disobeying the lawful orders of the master of his ship. It appears that Harris went ashore without leave and, on being told that he would have to forfeit two days' pay, refused to do any more work on the vessel. He was sentenced to fourteen days' hard labour or until the ship sails.

Home service journals by yesterday's mail mention the rumoured resignation of Sir W. White, Chief Constructor to the Admiralty. The gentleman named to probably succeed him is Mr. Philip Watts, who has been nearly all his service in Portsmouth Dockyard. He is an enthusiastic Volunteer, being Colonel of the Elswick Volunteer Artillery and through his instrumentality a Corps of 320 Volunteers are now out in South Africa.

THE *Echo de Chine* says that the Franco-Chinese Syndicate, at the head of which are Messrs. L. Sculfort and M. Lemaire, are about to establish a monthly service by the steamer *Naochau* between Hongkong and Kuangchow-wan, calling at Macao and Chinese ports on the way, such as *Tienpak*.

MANY of our readers will be glad to learn that Mr. Sims who was Gunner of H.M.S. *Powerful*, has been promoted to a Lieutenantcy for his services in South Africa. It was through Mr. Sims' excellent gunnery that "Long Tom" was silenced. This promotion is the third of its kind during the Queen's reign, two warrant officers having received a similar promotion in the Jubilee year.

WITH the increase in the number of Police Stations, says the *Shanghai Mercury*, petty cases have increased so much of late at the Mixed Court that we think the time is not very far distant when it will need two courts sitting concurrently in order to dispose of an average day's work. This morning without a single case of any great importance the court—though sitting uninterruptedly since 10 o'clock—had by noon, still the cases of two police stations to take.

THE crime of infringing the rights of the Postmaster General by illegally conveying letters, &c., is becoming very common. This morning about seven o'clock Sergeant Terrett was walking along the Praya when he saw a sampan making for the *Michael Jensen*. Suspecting there was something wrong about her, he boarded her and found a large clothes box or trunk full of letters addressed principally to Haiphong. He immediately arrested the man in charge of the box, Hui Hong Fu, a tallyman who later on at the Magistracy was fined \$100.

THE members of the Customs staff at Ichang recently performed a graceful act of recognition of true Christian charity, when they presented the Mother Superior of the Convent at Ichang with a purse of \$100 for the benefit of the mission. The letter accompanying the donation explained the circumstances under which it was made. It stated that a poor Chinese junk-tracker had sustained a compound fracture of the foot, and but for the merciful act of the sisters in receiving and caring for him, he would have died a death of slow torture on the beach.—N. C. D. News.

CADET CORPS uniforms are, we are glad to see, to be simplified and rendered less expensive by the adoption of a Norfolk jacket and trousers of neutral tint, with a slouch hat according to the latest pattern. It is very desirable that boys at school should be taught at least the elements of drill and discipline and with that view every facility should be offered for all boys of suitable age to join their school corps. Parents may naturally object to the additional expense of a uniform consisting of unsuitable or unnecessary articles but if that union is kept to the common sense description as given by Mr. Wyndham in reply to a question in Parliament few if any people can possibly object to it.

A WHIST and billiard tournament played between the Staff and Departmental Sergeants' Mess, and the Sergeants' Mess of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was brought to an end last night. The first rounds were played on Thursday night. These friendly contests are always well enjoyed both by spectators and players, especially while the plague restrictions curtail the chances of recreation and they tend a great deal to keep up that *bon camarade* feeling which, while helping to maintain the esprit de corps, always should exist between the messes of different units. The results, which we give below, show a win for the Fusiliers in billiards by 291 points, but in the card game the tables were turned, the Staff Mess beating their opponents by six points.

WHIST.			
	Points.		Point
R. W. Fusilier.	For.	Against.	For.
U. M. S. Holloway			
Sergt. Robertson	15	3	S. Sgt. Ellis, A. P. C.
Sergt. Howlands	13	14	S. Sgt. Miller, R.A.M.C.
Sergt. Jones			Mr. Lew
Sr. Sergt. Williams	7	15	O. M. S. Pickering
Sr. M. Hickman	4	15	O. M. S. Rose
Sergt. Keating			S. M. Brown
			Sergt. Aldridge

BILLIARDS.				Winning Points
R. W. Fusliers.		Score.	Staff Mess.	Score.
Sergt. Keating	200	Sergt. Burrell	181	
S. M. Hickman	200	S. Sergt. Ellis	180	
Sergt. Jones	200	S. Sergt. Miller	172	
Sergt. Rowland	200	Q. M. S. Pickering	164	
Sergt. Jones	200	Sergt. Nichols	153	
Sergt. Jones	200	Q. M. S. Ross	177	
Sergt. Notman	200	S. Sergt. Cusack	176	
Sergt. Clarke	200	Sergt. Ward	159	
Total				159

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equipment or transport even on paper, and it
might find itself any day on campaign at
the other side of the opposite hills.

A Home Guard, in the sense of the letter
to which we refer, will be a very valuable
addition to our means of defence, especially
against any local disturbances. The idea

of breaking it up into local associations, one
of Peak Residents, one of City Residents,
one of Kowloonites is good. The Govern-
ment will doubtless provide it with arms but,
if it is to give any really effective training in
arms to its members, it will, we are sure,
have to provide ammunition and ranges at its
own expense, or, by public subscription. It
will not even get from Government a
sufficiency of ammunition for any adequate
practice and, before the Government can
find and furnish a range all China will have
undergone a revolution or two and Russia
will have been for some time in possession
of Peking.

The Home Guard must do all they pos-
sibly can for themselves and depend on the
Government for nothing.

We most strongly recommend the forma-
tion of the Home Guard on the lines
indicated, and the raising by subscription in
the Colony—we will head the list with £100
if only to make a beginning—of a fund for
providing that Home Guard with ranges,
ammunition and such an amount of field
equipment and necessities as will enable it to
go on night duty or on duty anywhere in the
Island for a day or two, without having to
depend on the Military Store Department for
what is not there. The smallest and handiest
description of machine gun might also use-
fully be added to each unit as part of its
equipment.

As to ranges, Swiss Ranges must do.
They are sufficient for all practical purposes.
If our Home Guards are able to put six
shots a minute into a 2 ft. target at 400
yards they will be quite good enough for all
practical purposes. Familiarity with the
weapon, and readiness of hand and eye is
needful. Suitable ground for short ranges is
available anywhere. Constructed Swiss
fashion, with modifications, they are abso-
lutely safe. They can be open all day. As
to drill, if anything effective is to be done
it will have to be in the early morning. The
day's work in Hongkong is too hard and the
evening too short for drills in the afternoon.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The Situation.

To say the least of it, the situation in the
north is decidedly puzzling. We were in-
formed the other day that no less than seven
thousand Russian troops had arrived at
Tientsin, yet our Shanghai Correspondent
wired yesterday to the effect that the Chinese
were bombarding the foreign settlement at
Tientsin with forty-pounder guns and had
destroyed the United States Consulate. To-
day we hear that ammunition is running
short and the Russians are hard pressed,
while most of the concession is in flames.

The question that naturally suggests itself
is what has become of the seven thousand
Russian troops and how is it that they allowed
the Chinese to bring heavy guns within
range of the foreign settlement? We have
had no news of a Russian force starting
for Peking or to the relief or assistance
of Admiral Seymour's column, yet it seems
that the bulk of them must have left Tien-
tsin, or how is the bombardment to be
accounted for?

The fact that forty-pounders were used in
the bombardment serves to show that the
Chinese Imperial troops in the vicinity of
Tientsin have joined the Boxers. It is
absurd to suppose that the Boxers them-
selves were in possession of heavy ordnance
and it is plain that it could only have been
obtained from the troops, and that by their
joining forces with the members of this
anti-foreign society.

If one body of troops have joined the
Boxers we think that there can be very
little hope of the remainder holding aloof,
and in all probability the allied Powers have
now the whole of the northern Chinese
army opposing them, which will mean
that a very large force indeed will be
required to settle matters once more, and
the settlement will take months, perhaps
even two or three years.

It is also said to be going
north to strive to reduce the so-called rebel-
lions element to order, but we think that
the time has passed for even his help to be
of any avail. He would do much better to
remain in Canton and turn his attention to
maintaining order in the Two Kwangs, for
the Chinese are apprehensive of his depar-
ture being the signal for a general rising in
the south. If such a rising takes place
Hongkong will be in anything but an en-
viable position. Our food supply will be cut
off by the closing of Canton, servants and
Chinese in European employ may be expected
to desert and business will be brought
practically to a standstill, as has been the
case in the northern ports. We must also
be on the qui vive for disturbances breaking
out both in the Hinterland and in Hong-
kong itself, and we are pleased to see that
the Volunteers at least are alive to the dan-
ger. Steps should be immediately taken to
ensure the safety of the Colony. The police
force should be increased and the military
forces held in readiness to act at a moment's
notice. We do not want to see another
Hingang fiasco in the face of a Chinese
rising.

British North Borneo.

The murder of Mr. H. S. HAYNES, Magis-
trate in charge of Gantian, by Dyak Police,
which was reported by our Labuan Corres-
pondent the other day, serves to show how
deeply the rot has sunk into British North
Borneo. We remarked some time ago that
if North Borneo was to be saved, Mr. HENRI
CLIFFORD, the new Governor was the man to
do it, but apparently he has arrived upon the
scene too late. The mere fact of Dyak
Police stooping to mutiny and murdering a
European officer, shows that there must be
something radically wrong somewhere, for
the Dyaks have invariably been most loyal
and have proved their loyalty to the British
upon very many occasions.

We fear that the reign of the British North
Borneo Company is practically at an end.
It may not suit the book of the Home
Government to take the country over just at
present, but we think that so soon as the
South African and China troubles have
been settled that the Company will cease to
exist. They are incapable of protecting life
and property and they must go.

TELEGRAMS.

Special to the "Hongkong Telegraph."

SPECIAL TELEGRAM.

THE TROUBLE IN
THE NORTH.
BOMBARDMENT OF
TIENTSIN.

CASUALTIES HEAVY.

REINFORCEMENTS URGENTLY
NEEDED.

RUSSIANS HARD PRESSED.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SHANGHAI, June 23rd.

2.45 p.m.

A despatch received here yesterday
from the British Consul at Tientsin
states that reinforcements are urgent-
ly needed.

The casualties are heavy and the
supply of ammunition is insufficient.

The Russians are very hard pressed.

The Chinese troops are keeping up
an incessant fire from large guns on
the concession.

The houses in the concession are
nearly all burnt.

Received 3.45 p.m.

Published 5.30 p.m.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE WAR.

AN ARMISTICE.

LONDON, June 21st.

General Buller wiring from Sandfontein
Station on the 20th inst., says that his head
quarters are two miles N.W. of the railway.

An informal armistice for five days has
been concluded with Commandant Botha,
at the expiration of which Lord Roberts will
take vigorous action.

GENERAL.

THE UNITED STATES.

MCKINLEY'S POLICY APPROVED
BY THE REPUBLICANS.

The Republican Convention at Philadel-
phia has adopted a platform strongly ap-
proving of President McKinley's domestic
and foreign policy, and declaring a steadfast
adherence to the gold standard.

LATER.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced of Count Mura-
viev, Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

FURTHER RE-INFORCEMENT
FOR THE BRITISH CHINA
SQUADRON.

H. M. S. Ships *Isis* and *Dido* have been
ordered to China.

THE UNITED STATES.

The Republican Convention has un-
animously re-nominated McKinley as President
and Roosevelt Vice President.

WEATHER REPORT.

The Observatory report says:—

On the 23rd at 11.55 a.m. the barometer has
fallen in the North, risen in Formosa and on
the S. coast of China. Pressure remains high
in the Pacific to the S.E. of the Loochoos, and
a depression is moving Eastwards over the N.E.
coast of China. Gradients slight for S.E. and
S. winds in S. China and the N. part of the
China Sea. FORECAST:—Moderate S.E. winds;
fair.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

PARCELS by the s.s. *Paletta* are now ready for
delivery.

A SHANGHAI paper understands that the
French Volunteer Company in the Model
Settlement has just obtained from Tonkin two
mitrailleuses, and that the services of a re-
sident, lately an artillery officer in the French
army, has been obtained to train the volunteers
in their use.

THE Band of the Hongkong Regiment will play
at the Hongkong Hotel this evening, from 8
p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

PROGRAMME.

1.—March "Fra Diavolo" Anker.
2.—Overture "Sancta Paule" Williams.
3.—Selection "Il Trovatore" Verdi.
4.—Valse "Le Joyeux Piqueur" Meyer.
5.—Serenade "Before the Window" Nehrl.
6.—Polka "Ma Ma Roxelane" Desmet.

God save the Queen.

WALTER HARRIS, seaman of the British
barque *Glenishe*, was this morning charged
before the Harbour Master with wilfully dis-
obeying the lawful orders of the master of his
ship. It appears that Harris went ashore with-
out leave and, on being told that he would have
to forfeit two days' pay, refused to do any more
work on the vessel. He was sentenced to
fourteen days' hard labour or until the ship
sails.

HOME service journals by yesterday's mail
mention the rumoured resignation of Sir W.
White, Chief Constructor, to the Admiralty.
The gentleman named to probably succeed
him is Mr. Philip Watts, who has been nearly
all his service in Portsmouth Dockyard. He
is an enthusiastic Volunteer, being Colonel of
the Elswick Volunteer Artillery and through
his instrumentality a Corps of 320 Volunteers
are now out in South Africa.

THE *Echo de Chine* says that the Franco-
Chinese Syndicate, at the head of which are
Messrs. L. Seuffert and M. Lemaire, are about
to establish a monthly service by the steamer
Naochau between Hongkong and Kuangchow-
wan, calling at Macao and Chinese ports on
the way, such as *Tienpak*.

MANY of our readers will be glad to learn that
Mr. Sims who was Gunner of H.M.S. *Powerful*,
has been promoted to a lieutenancy for his
services in South Africa. It was through Mr.
Sims excellent gunnery that "Long Tom" was
silenced. This promotion is the third of its
kind during the Queen's reign, two warrant
officers having received a similar promotion in
the Jubilee year.

WITH the increase in the number of Police
Stations, says the *Shanghai Mercury*, petty
cases have increased so much of late at the
Mixed Court that we think the time is not very
far distant when it will need two courts sitting
concurrently in order to dispose of an average
day's work. This morning without a single
case of any great importance the court—though
sitting uninterruptedly since 10 o'clock—had
by noon, still the cases of two police stations to
take.

THE crime of infringing the rights of the Post-
master General by illegally conveying letters,
&c., is becoming very common. This morning
about seven o'clock Sergeant Terrett was
walking along the Praya when he saw a sam-
pan making for the *Michael Johnson*. Suspect-
ing there was something wrong about her, he
boarded her and found a large clothes box or
trunk full of letters addressed principally to
Haiphong. He immediately arrested the man
in charge of the box, Han Hong Fu, a tallyman
who later on at the Magistracy was fined \$100.

THE members of the Customs staff at Ichang
recently performed a graceful act of recognition
of true Christian charity, when they presented
the Mother Superior of the Convent at Ichang
with a purse of \$100 for the benefit of the
mission. The letter accompanying the dona-
tion explained the circumstances under which
it was made. It stated that a poor Chinese
junk-trucker had sustained a compound fracture
of the foot, and but for the merciful act of the
sisters in receiving and caring for him, he would
have died a death of slow torture on the
beach.—*A. C. D. News*.

CADET CORPS uniforms are, we are glad to see,
to be simplified and rendered less expensive
by the adoption of a Norfolk jacket and
trousers of neutral tint, with a slouch hat ac-
cording to the latest pattern. It is very desir-
able that boys at school should be taught at
least the elements of drill and discipline and
with that view every facility should be offered
for all boys of suitable age to join their school
corps. Parents may naturally object to the
additional expense of a uniform consisting of
unsuitable or unnecessary articles but if that
uniform is kept to the common sense descrip-
tion as given by Mr. Wyndham in reply to a
question in Parliament few if any people can
possibly object to it.

A WHIST and billiard tournament played
between the Staff and Departmental Sergeants'
Mess, and the Sergeants' Mess of the Royal
Welsh Fusiliers was brought to an end last
night. The first rounds were played on Thurs-
day night. These friendly contests are always
well enjoyed both by spectators and players,
especially while the plague restrictions curtail
the chances of recreation and they tend a great
deal to keep up that *bon camarade* feeling
which, while helping to maintain the esprit de
corps, always should exist between the messes
of different units. The results, which we give
below, show a win for the Fusiliers in billiards
by 291 points, but in the card game the tables
were turned, the Staff Mess beating their op-
ponents by six points.

WHIST.		Points.	
R.W. Fusiliers.	Staff Mess.	For.	Against.
Q. M. S. Holloway	S. Sgt. Ellis, A. P. G.	3	23
Sergeant Robertson	Mr. Sherman	15	14
Sergeant Rowlands	S. Sgt. Miller, R.A.M.C.	14	15
Sergeant Jones	Mr. Low	7	15
Ar. Sgt. Williams	Q. M. S. Pickering	15	7
Sergeant Moore	Q. M. S. Ross	15	7
S. M. Hickman	S. M. Brown	4	15
Sergeant Keating	Sergeant Aldridge	15	4
Total..... 291			

BILLIARDS.		Score.	
R.W. Fusiliers.	Staff Mess.	For.	Against.
Sergeant Keating	Sergeant Burrell	181	79
S. M. Hickman	S. Sgt. Ellis	164	90
Sergeant Jones	S. Sgt. Miller	157	78
Sergeant Rowlands	Q. M. S. Pickering	164	48
Sergeant Jones	Sergeant Nichols	153	47
Sergeant Moore	Q. M. S. Ross	177	21
Sergeant Keating	S. Sgt. Keating	176	24
Sergeant Keating	Sergeant Ward	159	44
Total..... 604			

THE PLAGUE.

Cases reported to 22nd instant.....	660
Do. do. during past 24 hours...	6
Total...	666
Deaths reported to 22nd instant	600
Do. do. during past 24 hours...	4
Total...	604

SMART WORK.

Thus the *Shanghai Mercury* of 16th inst.
It is a pity that when striking is necessary
it cannot be done with the celerity which our
naval men show when tested.

Last Sunday night it occurred to the gallant
commander of the *Harmonie* that as his ship
was under orders to leave, and all her shore
going paraphernalia were stowed away, it
would be an admirable opportunity for one
of those little surprises which enliven the dul-
ness of every well conducted vessel on occasion.
Not a word was said, but next morning just
as one officer was in his tub, and another had
half his face shaved, the word was passed
rouff! to land every available man with all
necessaries, accounts, and a day's
rations in the quickest time possible.

Thomas Atkins naps occasionally, but the
man doesn't live who can boast of catching a
sailor asleep.

The command was obeyed, and in half an
hour from the giving of the order the landing
party was on the Bund.

Barro, *Harmonie*!

THE BOXER TROUBLE.

H.M.S. *Pique* and the destroyer *Hart* are
under orders to sail for Shanghai on Wednesday.

It is evident that the Hongkong Volunteer
Corps intends to be prepared for any emer-
gency that may arise during the present
trouble. All members have been asked to
render certain information as to their addresses
by day and night, and the nearest telephones
to their residences and places of business, in
case of an immediate muster being ordered.

The steamer *Haiphong*, is loading stores and
ammunition for the North, and it is expected
to leave to-night if possible. She also takes
with her 12 coppers of the Royal Engineers.

The Indian Brigade now under orders to join
this station will, so far as the accommodation on
the boats by which they are proceeding will admit,
bring all their equipment and stores necessary

Assist Engineer—Leonard H. P. Hammond.
Gunnery—Arthur F. Donovan.
Frederick S. Scott.
William A. Hooper.
Carpenter—Daniel G. Mc Donald.
Midshipman—John W. Scott.
Henry L. W. Winch.
Alfred F. B. Carpenter.
Basil P. Brooke.
John F. Ford-Anderson.
Alfred D. Grant.
Alfred F. Boughey.

ROBBERY AT MURRAY BARRACKS.

This morning it was discovered that the money safe of the officers' mess at Murray Barracks had been broken into and a sum of about \$85 stolen. The police were at once informed, and the case has been left in the hands of Sgt. Terrett. It seems that periodical thefts occur at the same place. About three months ago, one of the officers' quarters was broken into and money, jewellery and clothing of the value of nearly \$200 abstracted.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET.

HONGKONG, June 22nd.
 Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly and Potts, in their weekly share report state:

The market has ruled very quiet during the week, owing to the unsettled state of affairs in the North. The Fourteenth Ordinary Meeting of Shareholders in Campbell, Moore and Company, Limited, will be held on Monday, the 25th instant. We beg to remind our constituents of the following calls:—Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited, \$25 due 1st July. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, \$50 due 1st July. Overseas Freehold Nine Limited, 30 cents (on "B" shares) due 17th July. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have declined to 310 per cent. premium sales. The London quotation has improved to £55 10s. Nationals have been sold at \$27 and are wanted. Marine Insurances.—Unions have been fixed at \$262. China Traders are steady with buyers at \$55. Cautions have been negotiated at \$132. China Fires have been placed in small lots at \$295. China Fires are in the market at \$79. Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamships have reacted and are obtainable at \$31. Indo Chinas have been done at \$85 and are still obtainable. China and Manilla, old cum new, have been looked at \$100. China Mutuals are enquired for at quotations. Reinsurances.—China Sugars have changed hands at \$122. Mining.—Punions are steady at \$6. Jelebus have been sold at \$123 and are offering. Rauls have been dealt at \$58. Locks, Wharves and Godowns.—Hongkong and Whampoa Locks are a shade easier and obtainable at 525 per cent. premium. Kowloon Wharf shares are on offer at \$85. Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—Hongkong Lands after sales at \$130 are offering at \$137. West Point are firm at \$47. Hongkong Hotels are quiet and have been done at \$123 and \$125. Humphreys' Estate burdened and sales at \$105 have been effected. Cotton Mills.—Quotations for Northern Mills are taken from the latest Shanghai circulars. Cigar Companies.—Alhambra have been taken off the market at 140 per cent. premium. Miscellaneous.—Green Island Cements have been fixed at rates between \$21 and \$24. A. S. Watsons are steady at \$16. Electric cables have been placed at \$100 but are again easier with sellers at \$110. Hongkong and China Gas Company have declared a dividend of 9 per cent. for 1899. Teas have been bought at \$165 and closed in demand. Dairy Farm have found buyers at \$82. Campbell Moore are wanted at \$20. The Company's report shows a credit balance of \$5,350.11, and it is proposed to pay a dividend of 12 per cent. place \$1,000 to Reserve and carry forward \$277.83.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

THE DEFENCE OF THE COLONY.

To the Editor of the "Hongkong Telegraph."
 Sir,—It has occurred to several members of the community who are not so young as they once were, but who are still able and willing to lend a hand in the defence of the colony, should the occasion for it unhappily arise, that the present is perhaps a fitting time for the formation of a corps who would be ready to place their services under some special terms of enlistment at the disposal of the Military authorities. The war at the Cape has demonstrated the value of irregular forces who can shoot, and it is believed that there exists in our midst the material for the formation of a body of this sort. A rough sketch of the scheme is given as under, so that men may have some idea of the object in view.

1.—Members must be over 32 years of age and must not belong to any of the other Volunteer forces in the colony.
 2.—Drill will be reduced to a minimum, and members will not be called upon to attend any ceremonial parade.

3.—The question of uniform to be reduced to the smallest amount necessary to ensure to its members the rights of war.
 4.—That the Government be asked to supply a rifle range in as suitable a locality as possible, so as to encourage practice.

5.—That the Government supply arms, service rifles free of cost, and an allowance of ammunition for practice to be issued at cost price to members.

This letter is addressed to you with a view to sounding the public, and any one who feels inclined to join can send in his name to any of the undersigned, and in addition lists will be placed at the Hongkong Club and at Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co. and Kelly & Walsh.

Mr. A. Turner, of Messrs. Palmer and Turner, will undertake the duties of Hon. Secretary for the time being.

Should enough names be received in the course of a week to make the force worth offering to the Government, a public meeting will be called for the further discussion of the scheme, and for the election of a provisional committee to arrange the various details necessary.

When companies are formed they can elect their own officers.
 If the number of names received are sufficient it might be possible to form a corps of three sections.
 One for the Peak.
 One for residents in the town.
 One for Kowloon.

The modern magazine rifle cannot be learnt at a moment's notice, and it is hoped that men joining this corps will familiarize themselves with it by regular practice.

Yours faithfully,
 A. TURNER.
 G. STEWART.
 H. H. J. GOMPERTZ.
 R. L. RICHARDSON.
 G. C. MOXON.
 JOHN A. MACKAY.

Hongkong, June 23rd, 1900.

WAR NEWS BY WIRE.

At Johannesburg.

LONDON, June 2nd.
 The seizure of Elandsfontein Junction near Johannesburg was effected by Colonel Henry, with the 18th Mounted Infantry, on Tuesday, while the General French and General Hamilton were engaged in facing Vanuyk's simultaneous. The 3rd Cavalry Brigade detoured to the east to Boksburg, General Pole-Carew and Tucker following as fast as possible. This stretched the force far to eastwards, out-flanked the enemy's defensible position, and struck for Pretoria. The advance guard arrived at the junction just in time to fire into the last train conveying half of the Heidelberg commando from Volksrust to the north. The line was then destroyed. The enemy, however, occupied ridges near the station with three field guns, one heavy, and one automatic gun, and a section of the Mounted Infantry in front were heavily shelled, while, owing to a mishap to the Klip river bridge, no artillery could be brought to the support of the British force. The Mounted Infantry, however, steadily worked round and severed the Pretoria line thus isolating the Boer force confronting our extreme left. At midday the British advance force occupied a rise above Boksburg commanding the Rand completely, and while anxiously awaiting explosions they learned that orders for the destruction of the mines had been cancelled. The troops are fit, but badly need vegetables and bread.

In Griqualand West.

Details just received show that General Warren, with a force of 705 men, advanced to Johannesburg on Tuesday and occupied a strong defensive position. At dawn on Wednesday he was surrounded and fiercely attacked by 1,000 rebels who had stampeded the horses. The British quickly concentrated and the enemy were repulsed. A small party, however, who had held a garden fought tenaciously, but evacuated the position as the Duke of Edinburgh's Own Volunteers charged. The number of dead bodies and several of the wounded were carried off. The British loss was fifteen killed, including Colonel Spence, and thirty wounded.
 Reuter wiring from Prieska, on Thursday, says Colonel Adaye completely surprised the rebels at Kheis on Tuesday. He captured their wagons and flocks and their arms and ammunition. The 4th Battery, Royal Artillery, shelled the enemy from the left bank of the Orange River, while Colonel Adaye took the mounted troops across a drift, getting round to the rear of the rebels, who opposed the crossing of the river, but it was effected without loss. The rebels were thus caught between two fires, but they made a strong resistance. Their losses were heavy, chiefly wounded, and twenty unmounted men were captured. The British losses were seven killed and eighteen wounded. Many of our men were treacherously shot on while carrying the wounded. Major Orr Ewing and three men were killed and three officers and seventeen men wounded.

President Kruger.

Various rumours are current to the effect that President Kruger is working back from Lourenco Marques undecidably. Others speak of him as at Lydenburg. It is believed an Amsterdam hotel has been engaged for him incoincidentally, but it is stated he is too ill to undertake the journey. President Kruger's physician and nephew have arrived at Lourenco Marques.

The *Spectator* hopes the President will escape and thus relieve us of a disagreeable burden.

Roberts' Movements.

A despatch from Lord Roberts, dated Orange Grove, Saturday, says: Johannesburg is quiet and the people are surrendering arms and ponies. Only three Boer guns were left in the Fort. The Queenslanders captured on Wednesday a Creusot gun and eleven wagons of stores and ammunition. Commandant Botha of Zoutpansburg, his field cornet and a hundred prisoners were taken in the fighting round Johannesburg on Wednesday. The *Yeomanry* on the way from Kroonstad to Lindey were attacked on the 29th and had some casualties. The casualties in General Hamilton's force on Tuesday, included Colonel H. H. Hurley, of the Gordons, and eight officers wounded.

The Political Situation.

The City of London Corporation at their next meeting will discuss the proposal to erect a triumphal monument to Lord Roberts at the Guildhall alongside those of Pitt, Nelson, and Wellington.

Lord Rosebery, in a sort of manifesto, reminds the nation of the blessing war may always bring, and exhorts the press to divest itself of party catchwords and disregard persons. He concludes: "We stand at the parting of the ways. Will Britain flinch and falter in her worldwide task? What changes, what new forces and inspirations are needed. The document is interpreted as frankly breaking with Mr. John Morley and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and as encouraging others to do the same. It is believed the general election will occur in October.

At Pretoria.

Telegrams from Pretoria depict the existence of a state of chaos. Stories of the British proximity to the Boer capital have been circulated since Wednesday last. The inhabitants have been fleeing panic-stricken, believing their conquerors are merciless.

President Kruger and Mr. Steyn are bound for Lydenburg and have taken with them over a million sterling in gold. The foreign residents, volunteers and, finally, the burghers joined in looting the Government stores.

Judge Kock has been made a prisoner and charged with an attempt to blow up the Rand mines.

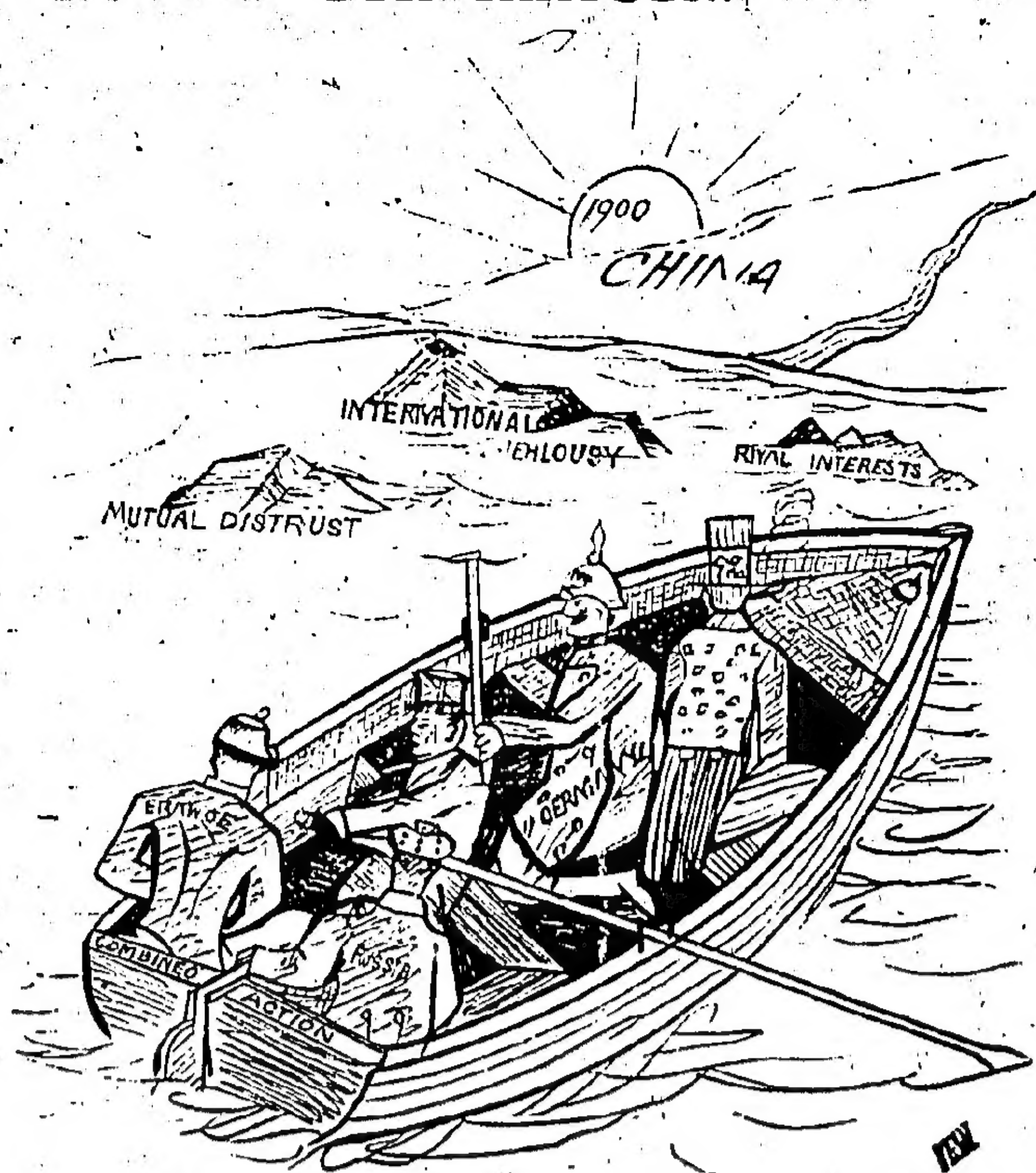
General Kunder's fight on the 29th of May took place on a burning veldt. The Grenadiers marched through the flames but were forced to change their position in the face of a hail of bullets, in order to escape being burnt. The men were marvellously steady.

Instructions have been issued for the East Yorkshire regiment at Belgium in South India to be ready to proceed at short notice to Ceylon to guard the Boer prisoners there. The regiment will probably start when the prisoners of war leave Cape Town. Meanwhile arrangements are being made for transport, and also for the despatch from India of tents and other necessities, both for the East Yorkshires and for two thousand prisoners.

The Fall of Pretoria.

Lord Roberts wiring from Six-mile Spruit on the 4th at 8-30 p.m. says: "I started at daybreak to-day and marched ten miles when we found the enemy occupying both banks of this Spruit. The Mounted Infantry and four companies of the Yeomanry quickly dislodged them from the south bank and pursued them for nearly one mile, when they came under a heavy fire from well-concealed guns. Our heavy guns were hurried to the assistance of the Mounted Infantry as fast as oxen and mules

OUR CARTOON.



THE SITUATION.

JOHN BULL.—Look out you chaps, or we'll be on those rocks!

could travel. After a few rounds our guns drove the enemy out of their positions. The Boers then attempted to turn our left flank, and were followed by the Mounted Infantry and Yeomanry, supported by Maxwell's Brigade. The Boers still kept pressing to our left rear, and I therefore ordered General Ian Hamilton to incline towards us. This finally checked the enemy, who were driven back towards Pretoria. Darkness prevented our pursuing them, and we bivouacked on the ground gained. The Guards Brigade are now quite close to most of the southern forts defending Pretoria. General French's Cavalry and General Hutton's Mounted Infantry are to the north of Pretoria. General Broadwood's Brigade is between Generals French and Hamilton's columns, and General Gordon is watching the right flank of the main force not far from the railway bridge at Irene, where the enemy has destroyed.

A despatch from Lord Roberts, dated Pretoria, 5th, says: "The surrender of Pretoria was unconditional. The fighting Boers retreated through the town."

The majority of British prisoners are still at Waterval. Just before dark, yesterday, the enemy were beaten back from all positions. General Hamilton's Mounted Infantry were pursuing them to within 2,000 yards of Pretoria. A flag of truce was sent demanding the surrender of the town. General Botha proposed an armistice for the purpose of settling terms. Lord Roberts intimated that the surrender must be unconditional, otherwise our troops would march into the town at daybreak. General Botha replied that they had decided not to defend Pretoria, and he trusted that women, children, and property would be protected. Three of the principal Civil Officials met Lord Roberts at one in the morning, and stated their wish to surrender the town. A few of the British prisoners have been removed. Over one hundred officers are in Pretoria.

A despatch from Lord Roberts, dated Pretoria, 5th instant, says: "The occupation passed off most satisfactorily, and the British flag is now hoisted over all the Government offices. Our troops met with a much more enthusiastic reception than I had anticipated." On 29th May, the Gordons, in clearing copies on the way to Pretoria from Johannesburg, lost 10 killed and 73 wounded. They advanced more speedily than was intended, and their feat equalled that of Dargai and Elandslaagte.

Reuter, wiring from Mafeking on the 29th ultimo, says: "Colonel Plumer has occupied Zeerust unopposed. The inhabitants hoisted the British flag and sang the National Anthem. The Boer officials offered to take the oath of allegiance if they were assured of British protection."

An official despatch from General Buller, dated 8th, says: "General Talbot Cole, with the Tenth Brigade, on the 6th, captured Vanuyk's Hill, our casualties being four killed and thirteen wounded. During the 6th and 7th we posted four big guns on Vanuyk, and two guns on the spur of Inkewelo. General Hildyard to-day assaulted all spurs between Botha's Pass and Inkewelo. The attack was well planned, and carried out with immense dash. The enemy were outflanked and forced to retire from a very strong position."

General Buller concludes by saying he does not believe we had any casualties.

Reuter, wiring from Pretoria on the 5th, says: "Colonel Delisle captured a machine-gun in the fighting prior to our entry into Pretoria, and another was found at the station. The Boer losses were heavy, ours slight. A quantity of rolling-stock has been secured."

NAVAL AND MILITARY NOTES.

The *Iphigénia*, cruiser, Captain H. N. Dudding, arrived at Portsmouth on 19th ulto, from the China Station and will prepare to pay off. The *Goliath*, battleship, Captain Lewis E. Wintz, returned to Sheerness Harbour on 19th ulto, from steam trials. Her three hours' commissioned trial proved successful, but her twenty-four hours' coal consumption trial was abandoned at the end of the fourth hour through leaky condenser tubes.

The cruiser *Argonaut*, which left Chatham recently for the China Station, arrived at Spithead on 24th ulto. Her engines had broken down, and on 23rd the engine-room was full of water. She will go back to Chatham for repairs and additional machinery trials.

An American journal is responsible for the statement that Chockuro Kadoma, Tokyo, an agent of the Japanese Government, is in Massachusetts buying arms and equipment for an army, to be placed in the field by the Japanese Government at once. He is stated to have given some startling facts as to the scale on which Japan is carrying on her preparations for the coming conflict. The Mikado is preparing quietly to put an army of 500,000 well armed and well-drilled soldiers in the field, and within two years the Japanese Army will be one of the most formidable in point of equipment.

1843—Ki-ying visited Hongkong.
 1848—Red Republican rising in Paris suppressed; 20,000 lives lost.
 1874—Shock of earthquake in Hongkong.
 1884—French troops defeated by Chinese near Langson.

1886—Steamer City of Tokio lost on Sagami point.

1894—Prince Edward Albert born.
 1897—Commemoration stones of Women's Hospital and Jubilee Road laid by H.E. Sir William Robinson, G.C.M.G.
 1898—American troops landed at Balquiere, 17 miles from Santiago.
 1899—Mr. C. W. Kinder Engineer in Charge of the Imperial Chinese Railway dismissed for alleged insubordination.

TO-MORROW.
 Sunday, 24th June, 1900.
 Chinese—28th of 5th moon of 26th year of Kwang-si.
 Sun—Rises..... 5hr. 19min.
 Sets..... 6hr. 45min.
 High water—Morning..... 6hr. 23min.
 Afternoon..... 6hr. 38min.
 Low water—Morning..... 6hr. 30min.
 Afternoon..... 1hr. 30min.

ANNIVERSARIES.
 1571—City Council of Manila constituted.
 1859—The Austrians defeated by the French at Solferino.
 1874—The Chinese merchants of Hongkong petitioned H.M. the Queen re the Customs Blockade.
 1880—The Po Leung Kuk Society formed.
 1894—Assassination of M. Carnot, President of the French Republic.
 1898—Serious disturbance in the Shamoen.—Admiral Camara's squadron arrives at Port Said.—Capt. Sverdrup's Arctic Expedition sails from Christiania on the *Frank*.
 1899—Mr. Hildebrandt's Railway Surveyors carried off by Chinese for Kiaochow.
 1899—Orange Free State vote £76,000 for arms and munition.
 1899—1st Electric tramway in China (Peking) opened.

AGENDA.

TO-DAY.
 Cargo ex *America Maru* subject to rent.

TO-MORROW.
 CHURCH SERVICES.

St. John's Cathedral.—Communion, 7 a.m., Matins, 11 a.m., Evensong, 5.45 p.m.
 Roman Catholic Cathedral.—Mass at 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., and 9.30 a.m. Benediction, 5 p.m.

Union Church.—Services, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
 German Bethesda Chapel, West Point.—Morning Service, 11 a.m.

St. Francis's Church, Wanchai.—Mass (Chin.) 6 a.m., (Port.) 7.30 a.m. Benediction, 5 p.m.

St. Joseph's Church, Garden Road.—Morning Service (English), 6 a.m.

St. Anthony's Chapel, West Point.—Mass, 8 a.m.

Wesleyan Methodist Church.—Services, 10.30 a.m. and 5.45 p.m.
 St. Peter's Seamen's Church.—11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

MONDAY, 25th.
 11 a.m.—Meeting of the Executive Council in the Council Chamber at Government Offices.
 Noon.—L. C. S. N. Co's steamer *Salsing* leaves for Straits.
 3 p.m.—Public Auction Sale of Crown Land (Nos. 302 and 303) at the Offices of the P. W. D.
 3 p.m.—Meeting of Legislative Council.

TUESDAY, 26th.
 O. S. Co's steamer *Antonia* leaves for London via Suez Canal.
 Noon.—T. K. K. Co's steamer *America Maru* leaves for San Francisco via Honolulu. Cargo ex *Indomand* subject to rent.
 Cargo ex *Wakasa Maru* subject to rent.

WEDNESDAY, 27th.
 C. D. R. steamer *Empress of India* leaves for Victoria B.C. etc.
 4 p.m.—C. N. Co's steamer *Kaijong* leaves for Manila.
 5 p.m.—C. & M. S. N. Co's steamer *Diamond* leaves for Manila.

SHIPPING AND MAIL NEWS.

MAINS DUE.
 American (City of Peking) 25th inst.
 German (Stuttgart) 27th inst.
 German (Oldenburg) 27th inst.
 American (Gaelic) 4th prox.
 Canadian (Empress of Japan) 10th prox.
 American (Hongkong Maru) 12th prox.

The Imperial German Mail steamer *Oldenburg*, has left Shanghai to-day, the 23rd inst., and may be expected here on or about Wednesday, the 27th inst.

The Imperial German Mail steamer *Stuttgart*, carrying the German Mails with dates from Berlin of the 28th ult., has left Singapore to-day Friday at 8 a.m., the 23rd inst., and may be expected here on or about Wednesday, the 27th inst.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK RETURNS.
 U.S.S. *Montezuma*..... at Kowloon Dock.
 U.S.S. *Oregon*..... " " "
Sunkiang..... " " "
Fairbank..... " " "
Changsha..... " " "
Frederick..... " " "
Chunghua..... " " "
America Maru..... " " "
Gondwin..... " " "
Milos..... " " "
Petrarch..... " " "

TO-DAY.
 WEATHER REPORT.
 On date at On date at
 10 a.m. 4 p.m.
 Barometer..... 29.89 29.81
 Temperature..... 81 83
 Humidity..... 83 69
 Rainfall..... 0.07 "

TO-DAY.
 Saturday, 23rd June, 1900.
 Chinese—27th of 5th moon of 26th year of Kwang-si.
 Sun—Rises..... 5hr. 19min.
 Sets..... 6hr. 45min.
 High water—Morning..... 6hr. 23min.
 Afternoon..... 6hr. 38min.
 Low water—Morning..... 6hr. 30min.
 Afternoon..... 1hr. 30min.

ANNIVERSARIES.
 1843—Ki-ying visited Hongkong.
 1848—Red Republican rising in Paris suppressed; 20,000 lives lost.
 1874—Shock of earthquake in Hongkong.
 1884—French troops defeated by Chinese near Langson.

ARRIVALS.
 LOYAL, German steamer, 1,237, Lorenzen, 22nd June.—Samarang 7th June, Sugar.—Sander, Wieler & Co.
 MEEFOO, Chinese steamer, 1,339, T. Sleanan, 22nd June.—Canton 22nd June, General.—C. M. S. N. Co.
 AMIGO, German steamer, 771, J. Bendixen, 23rd June.—Hongay 21st June, Coal.—Jebson & Co.
 LYBEMOON, German steamer, 1,238, G. Heuermann, 23rd June.—Shanghai 20th June, General.—Siemsen & Co.
 RAONAR, Norwegian steamer, 1,556, Sander, Wieler & Co.
 VALKYRIE, British bark, 490, Hall, 23rd June.—Rajang 3rd June, Timber.—Order.
 PHRA NANG, German steamer, 1,021, A. S. Calder, 23rd June.—Bangkok 16th June, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
 TRYM, Norwegian steamer, 710, Dahl, 23rd June.—Canton 22nd June, General.—E. A. Trading Co.

DEPARTURES.
 June 23, *Clyde*, British str., for Europe.
 June 23, *Valletta*, British str., for Shanghai.
 June 23, *Kwaiyang*, British str., for Cebu.
 June 23, *Hailong*, French str., for Pakhoi.
 June 23, *Kongtong*, British str., for Bangkok.
 June 23, *Australian*, British str., for Australia.
 June 23, *Wingsang*, British str., for Shanghai.
 June 23, *Trym*, Norw. str., for Newchwang.

PASSENGERS—ARRIVED.
 Per *Leyon*, from Samarang—5 Chinese.
 Per *Leyon*, from Shanghai—Messrs. Willmott, Jensen, Wilmsen, and 44 Chinese.
 Per *Phra Nang*, from Bangkok—Mr. C. Simpson, Mrs. Cheesman, Messrs. S. Kodera, Mikanie, Kung Kang Seng, and 100 Chinese.
 Per *Yawata Maru*, from Australian Ports for Hongkong—Messrs. K. E. Stephens, J. Craig, F. P. Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Nuthall, Messrs. O. Preston, S. D. Ames, Miss L. A. Owen, Capt. G. E. Ide, U.S.N. Mr. W. M. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. McDougall, Mr. See In, Mr. and Mrs. Chue Lum and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. H. Jameson, Mr. S. Northwood, Miss H. Noyaya, Mr. K. Ide, 1 European and 2 children, 2 Ceylonese, 1 Japanese and 8 Chinese. Through—Messrs. H. Gardner, W. R. Carleton, Colonel G. B. Austin, Messrs. W. P. Hood, Thos. Pringle, Mr. and Mrs. Bowyer Smyth, Dr. and Mrs. J. Lauterer, Mr. and Mrs. W. Collins, Mrs. Sato, Mrs. P. Cowen, Messrs. Isaac, J. Lynch, Domingo Garcia, Orispulo Zamora, 1 European and 15 Japanese.

DEPARTED.
 Per *Clyde*, for London from Shanghai—Mr. A. McAlister, Misses Patterson, Norden, Messrs. W. Ferguson, J. S. Erskine and G. W. Duncan.
 From Hongkong—Mr. David Glass, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bailey, Messrs. G. H. Harker, J. T. G. Coleman and J. Q. Smith. For Penang—Mr. G. A. Hall. For Singapore—Mr. A. L. Hussan.
 Per *Valletta*, for Shanghai from London—Messrs. W. Howell and R. C. Aiers. From Marseilles—Messrs. J. Lasker, Geroliss and Geryowski. From Hongkong—Mrs. Percy Scott, J. Cochran, P. S. Mann and T. C. Stafford.

STEAMERS EXPECTED.

Names.	From.	Due.
City of Peking	Shanghai	June 25th
Kintuck	Singapore	June 26th
Futami Maru	Nagasaki	June 26th
Stuttgart	Singapore	June 27th
Oldenburg	Japan	June 27th
Inaba Maru	Shimonoseki	June 27th
Armenia	Japan	June 27th
Banca	Singapore	June 28th
Moynone	Liverpool	July 2nd
Gaelic	San Francisco	July 4th
Disango	Bombay	July 5th
Verona	Suez	July 7th
Empress of Japan	Vancouver	July 10th
Hongkong Maru	San Francisco	July 12th
Teenkai	Liverpool	July 12th

PROJECTED SAILINGS.

Ship.	Destination.	Date.
Acara	New York	July 15th
Alesia	Hankow, etc.	Aug. 20th
America Maru	San Francisco, etc.	June 26th
Anping Maru	Swatow, etc.	June 27th
Antenor	London	June 26th
Argyll	Portland, etc.	June 30th
Armenia	New York	June 29th
Bayern	Straits, etc.	July 12th
Benalder	London	July 5th
Bengal	Europe, etc.	July 7th
Braemar	Portland, etc.	Aug. 25th
Carlisle City	San Diego, etc.	Aug. 20th
China	San Francisco, etc.	July 31st
Cingtau	Manila, etc.	July 14th
City of Peking	San Francisco, etc.	July 5th
City of Rio	San Francisco, etc.	Aug. 25th
Coptic	San Francisco, etc.	Sept. 1st
Diamond	Manila	June 27th
Doric	San Francisco, etc.	Aug. 7th
Duke of Fife	Victoria, B.C.	July 28th
Emp. China	Vancouver, etc.	Aug. 8th
Emp. India	"	June 27th
Emp. Japan	"	July 18th
Ensign	San Diego, etc.	July 31st
Erickdale	New York	July 6th
Futami Maru	Sydney, etc.	June 29th
Gaelic	San Francisco, etc.	July 14th
Glenlogie	Victoria, B.C.	July 3rd
Haitchong	Swatow, etc.	June 24th
Hamburg	Straits, etc.	Oct. 3rd
Hongkong Maru	San Francisco, etc.	July 21st
Inaba Maru	Sh	

Auction.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have been favoured with instructions from HART BUCK, Esq., to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, on

WEDNESDAY, the 4th July, 1900,

and following Days until Completion of the Sale, within his Residence, MOUNT RICHMOND, the WHOLE of the

VALUABLE FURNITURE

contained therein, comprising:

PUSH COVERED DRAWING ROOM

SUITE, CHIPPENDALE CHAIRS, RED

LACQUER JAPANESE CABINET, OLD

NINGPO CARVED and INLAID SQUARE

TABLE, WHATNOTS, Very Fine BLACK-

WOOD HAT and UMBRELLA STAND

with BEVELLED GLASS MIRROR, TEAK-

WOOD EXTENSION DINING TABLE,

TEAKWOOD OVERMANTEL with BE-

VELLED GLASS, Handsomely CARVED

SIDEBOARD with MIRROR, DINNER

WAGGON, MARBLE CLOCK, MOROCCO

COVERED DINING ROOM SUITE,

SILK REP COVERS, SITTING ROOM

SUITE, PEKING, OLSONNE and Other

CURIOS, Excellent DINNER SERVICE and

a Choice Assortment of CUT GLASS WARE,

TEAK WARDROBES with MIRRORS

(Double and Single), Several LADY'S WRIT-

ING DESKS, CHESTS of DRAWERS,

MARBLE TOP DRESSING TABLES and

WASHSTANDS, TOILET SETS, BRASS

and IRON BEDSTEPS with MATTRESSES,

Several CARPETS and RUGS, SET-

TEES, FENDERS and FIRE BRASSES.

And

OIL PAINTINGS by Lacy, Clark, Thom-

bury, Salt and other Artists.

ENGRAVINGS

including "THE RULING PASSION,"

"LAUNCHED IN LIFE," "THE STORM-

ING OF BADAJOS," "A FAIR LEAD,"

"GOING WELL," "GONE AWAY," "THE

DEATH" and many Others.

A Quantity of Valuable BLACKWOOD.

A Grand PIANO, by Broadwood, with EM-

BROIDERED COVER.

A BILLARD TABLE in Excellent Order,

with the Usual APPURTEANCES, by

Hongkong, 20th June, 1900. [788b]

To be Let.

TO LET

A FURNISHED ROOM on the Lower Level, WITH or WITHOUT BOARD. Apply to—

Office of This Paper.

Hongkong, 19th June, 1900. [783b]

TO LET

"HARFORD" MAGAZINE GAP.

GROUND FLOOR, 53, PEEL STREET,

13, PRAYA CENTRAL—ROOMS on 2ND

FLOOR.

"GLENIFFER" KOWLOON.

A HOUSE in RYDON TERRACE.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVEST-

MENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

Hongkong, 18th June, 1900. [21]

Shipping.

STEAMERS.

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR MANILA.

THE Company's New Steamship

"DIAMANTE"

Captain A. Ramsay, will be despatched for the above port, on WEDNESDAY, the 27th instant, at 5 P.M.

The Attention of Passengers is directed to the Excellent Accommodation provided by this Steamer. She is fitted throughout with Electric Light.

A Doctor is carried.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 21st June, 1900. [790b]

FOR MANILA.

THE Company's Steamship

"CHINGTU"

Captain Williams, will be despatched as above on SATURDAY, the 14th July, at 4 P.M.

The Attention of Passengers is directed to the Superior Accommodation offered by this Steamer. The First Class Saloon is situated forward of the Engines.

A duly qualified Surgeon is carried and the Vessel is fitted throughout with Electric Light.

For Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 16th June, 1900. [776b]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR QUEENSLAND PORTS, SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.

THE Company's Steamship

"CHINGTU"

Captain Williams, will be despatched on SATURDAY, the 14th July, at 4 P.M.

The Attention of Passengers is directed to the Superior Accommodation offered by this Steamer. The First-class Saloon is situated forward of the Engines. A Refrigerating Chamber ensures the Supply of Fresh Provisions during the entire voyage.

A duly qualified Surgeon is carried and the Vessel is fitted throughout with Electric Light.

A.R.—Rates of Tickets issued by this Company to and from AUSTRALIA are available for return by the Steamers of the EASTERN and AUSTRALIAN S.S. Co. and vice versa.

For Freight and Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 16th June, 1900. [777b]

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.

THE Company's Steamship

"STENTOR"

Captain Jackson, will be despatched as above on TUESDAY, the 24th July.

For Freight, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 14th June, 1900. [764b]

Shipping.

STEAMERS.

THE OSAKA SHOSHEN KAISHA, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND TAMSUI.

THE Company's Steamship

"MAIDZURU MARU,"

Captain T. Nagata, will be despatched for the above ports, TO-MORROW, the 24th instant, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

THE MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA,

Agents.

Hongkong, 23rd June, 1900. [45]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOCHOW.

THE Company's Steamship

"HAICHING,"

Captain Hall, will be despatched for the above ports, TO-MORROW, the 24th instant, at 9 A.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LARSEN & Co.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 23rd June, 1900. [792b]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SHANGHAI.

THE Company's Steamship

"SZECHUEN,"

Captain Hall, will be despatched as above on TUESDAY, the 26th instant, at 2 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 21st June, 1900. [791b]

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.

THE Company's Steamship

"ANTENOR,"

Captain M. F. H. Jackson, will be despatched as above on TUESDAY, the 26th June.

For Freight, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 17th May, 1900. [643b]

THE OSAKA SHOSHEN KAISHA, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY & TAIWANFOU.

THE Company's Steamship

"ANING MARU,"

Captain J. Saito, will be despatched for the above ports on WEDNESDAY, the 27th instant, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

THE MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA,

Agents.

Hongkong, 13th June, 1900. [750b]

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR LIVERPOOL (DIRECT).

Taking Cargo at London Rates.

THE Company's Steamship

"ULYSSES,"

Captain Brown, will be despatched as above on THURSDAY, the 28th instant.

For Freight, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 18th June, 1900. [780b]

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

FOR MANILA.

THE Company's Steamship

"FUTAMI MARU,"

3,800 Tons Gross, Captain J. Thonny, will be despatched for the above Port, on FRIDAY, the 29th instant, at 4 P.M.

This new Mail Steamer is specially constructed for service in the Tropics and is provided with Superior Accommodation and with all modern fittings and improvements for the safety and comfort of Passengers. Electric Light and Refrigerator. Doctor and Stewardess carried.

Return Tickets issued by this Company are available for return by steamers of the other Lines.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

A. S. MIHARA,

Manager.

Hongkong, 21st June, 1900. [793b]

"BEN" LINE OF STEAMERS.

FOR LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.

THE Steamship

"BENALDER,"

Captain C. K. McIntosh, will be despatched as above on or about THURSDAY, the 28th July.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 13th June, 1900. [760b]

FOR NEW YORK VIA SUEZ CANAL.

THE Steamship

"ETTRICKDALE,"

will be despatched for the above Port on or about the 6th July, and the S.S. "SIKI" on or about the 13th July. They will be followed by the

S.S. "AFGHANISTAN."

For Freight, apply to

DODWELL & CO., LIMITED,

Agents.

Hongkong, 11th June, 1900. [74]

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.

THE Company's Steamship

"MENELAUS,"

Captain Towell, will be despatched as above on TUESDAY, the 10th July.

For Freight, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 4th June, 1900. [725b]

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO'S

"NEW YORK" LINE.

FOR NEW YORK, VIA SUEZ CANAL.

THE Steamship

"ACARA,"

Captain , will be despatched for the above Port on or about the 15th July.

For Freight, apply to

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 1st June, 1900. [715b]

Mails.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

(THE JAPAN MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.)



PROJECTED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG—SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

STEAMERS.	DESTINATIONS.	SAILING DATES.
YAWATA MARU.....	{NAGASAKI, KOBE and YOKO- HAMA	To-MORROW, 24th June, at Daylight.
INABA MARU.....	{MARSEILLES, LONDON & ANT- WERP, VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO and PORT SAID	FRIDAY, 29th June, at Daylight.
FUTAMI MARU.....	{SYDNEY and MELBOURNE, VIA MANILA, THURSDAY ISLAND, TOWNSVILLE and BRISBANE	FRIDAY, 29th June, at 4 P.M.

For further Information as to Freight, Passage, Sailings, &c., apply at the Company's Local Branch Office at Prince's Building, 1st Floor, Chater Road.

A. S. MIHARA,
Manager.

Hongkong, 22nd June, 1900. [6]

NORDEUTSCHER
LLOYD.



HAMBURG-AMERIKA
LINIE.

(Freight Service.) (Freight Service.)
(Taking Cargo at through rates to ANTWERP, AMSTERDAM, ROTTERDAM, LISBON, OPORTO, LONDON, LIVERPOOL, GLASGOW, TRIESTE, GENOA, PORTS in the LEVANT; BLACK SEA and BALTIC PORTS; NORTH and SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS.)

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.
SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

STEAMERS.	DESTINATIONS.	SAILING DATES.
ARMENIA	{NEW YORK (via SUEZ CANAL)	29th June. Freight.
SAMBA	{COLOMBO, HAVRE, BREMERIA- VEN and HAMBURG	3rd July. Freight.
WITTENBERG	{(LONDON with transhipment in HAMBURG) HAVRE and HAMBURG	About 17th July. Freight.
SAVOIA	{(LONDON with transhipment in HAMBURG) HAVRE and HAMBURG	About 7th August. Freight and Passage.
ALESIA	{(LONDON with transhipment in HAMBURG) HAVRE and HAMBURG	About 20th August. Freight.

*These Steamers have Superior Accommodation for Passengers and carry a Doctor and a Stewardess.

For further Particulars as to Freight, Passage, &c., apply to

CARLOWITZ & Co.,
Agents.

TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

TO SAN FRANCISCO, VIA INLAND SEA OF JAPAN AND HONOLULU.

PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

AMERICA MARU (via

Shanghai, Nagasaki,

Kobe, Inland Sea,

Yokohama & Hono-
lulu)

NEWS FROM MAFKING.

MAFKING, March 25th.

We still hold the trenches in the Brickfields evacuated by the Boers last week, and the enemy are in larger out by the big gun. We are not molested now, and timid ones can walk about the roads in safety. I thought the men outside would move off last night, but they are in their full numbers to-day, and it is not unlikely that they will remain until the close of the war, or until Plumer or some other relieving commander gets to us. On the other hand, I would not be in the least surprised if the enemy here, reinforced by the commands that are certain to retire up before the southern relieving column, made a more determined attack upon us than has been made yet; and as it will be his last chance he is not very likely to fight with his gloves on.

BIG BEN AT WORK AGAIN.

March 26th.

This morning, soon after dawn, our guns, which had been advanced during the night, opened against the Boer lines in the east. The number of shells fired without any apparent result beyond drawing fire from the Republicans, who brought their big piece into action, and proved to us three things: that the gun herself was there and not a dummy; that she was not out of repair, and that the Boers had ammunition for her. Big Ben had been quiet for about a week, and there were various theories as to why he was not fired. If the object of this morning's attack was to set the matter at rest, the move was successful. There was a good deal of long-range rifle work, but the only casualty on our side was the slight wounding of Inspector Brown, of the Cape Police.

It is believed that one Boer was wounded; but he has only himself and our rifleman to blame, as he came out and dodged around in the open.

CAPTAIN WILSON TO-DAY INVITED ME INTO ONE OF HIS COOKHOUSES AT THE SOUP KITCHEN TO TASTE A NEW KIND OF PORRIDGE THAT HAS BEEN INVENTED FOR THE FEEDING OF THE WHITES. IT IS MADE OF THE HUSKS OF BATS AND A VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF FLOUR THAT REMAINS IN THEM AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN SIEVED FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE BAKERY. THE HUSKS ARE FERMENTED FOR THIRTY-SIX HOURS AND THEN BOILED, AND WHEN THE MESS IS STRAINED THE POTS CONTAIN A PALATABLE AND NO DOUBT VERY NUTRITIOUS PORRIDGE, SOMEWHAT RESEMBLING FLUMBERY. IT IS A PRODUCT OF WHAT UP TO A FEW DAYS AGO WAS WASTE, AND IS FAR AND AWAY BETTER THAN THE FOOD WITH WHICH WE ARE SUPPLIED AT BREAKFAST IN OUR HOTEL.

A DIRE CHUPPATIE.

It is wonderful how even in a little town like this in siege time food supplies can be discovered, invented, and eked out. All kinds of experiments have been tried, and I have no doubt that a standard work on food and how to make it will be the result of the painstaking investigations. Naturally, we, being the consumers, are the parties experimented upon, but have little complaint to make of the process. I have only one, and it is against a form of Indian meal, or oatmeal, or fluted meal (I cannot determine which) chuppatie. It is a brown, concrete-like flat cake, that is a cross between a sea-biscuit and an over-baked cracker. For several days I ate this bit of confectionery without a grumble, but now when I see it a tear comes into my eye, and I know that if I indulge in my two-ounce portion I will be around all day disinclined for all kinds of work save that of growling at everything around me and generally acting like a chained tiger. The material machinery of some people may be equal to the cake; I am sure that such is the case, for nature must have produced more than one of those human ostriches whom we occasionally see in the Aquarium eating horse-shoes, and anchors, and arwils, and such things; but I was not born that way, and I am afraid that if I am not placed on hospital comforts I shall find the small army of grumblers in the town—I shall be forced to it by the strain on my digestive apparatus. (I hope this hint will drift to the higher authorities through the Press. If it would be so nice to eat the chuppatie food once more, and I envy the delicate people who bring their ration of white bread to the table at the times.)

Winter is coming. But winter here is not the bleak specimen of weather that we get up north. It is a crisp, sunshiny season that nips like the Arctic regions. It is not that the cold is intense, but when one's blood has been rendered as thin as the point of a scalpel by the all-round summer the slightest change is felt. I can wear a heavy great-coat in comfort at night, and in spite of two wings and winter bedclothing I sometimes awaken in the morning half petrified. It is refreshing to meet a fellow coming off the veldt in the early morning just after sunrise. The sight of a blue nose and pinched cheeks reminds one of the old country—it is the only sight that does. But an hour's canter over the vast sea of flat land (or as much of it as one can safely ride over) is a splendid experience. I sometimes indulge in it, saddling up before dawn, and come back full of vigour and life—until I see those chuppaties.

The state of affairs financial has rendered it necessary for the Colonel to issue pound notes, which he himself designed. The note will be a splendid souvenir of the siege. It is artistically worked, and pictorially represents types of our fighting men and guns, and the pathetic figure of a woman holding her child and looking for the protection of the rough, armed man about her. The Colonel is a man of many parts, and before now has made a name as an artist, but this conception is the finest thing that I have ever seen come from his pen.

A BIG BOMBARDMENT.

March 27th, 6.30 A.M.

Last night passed quietly. On coming out this morning I was told that runners from Plumer's column had arrived at 2 p.m. last night, having started from the camp outside the sandstone fort. The relieving force is reported to be only about eleven miles out. Five blue signal rockets were seen early this morning—real rockets this time. The runners brought a number of telegrams for residents, addressed from various places. Several of the wires congratulate us upon our relief, which congratulations are somewhat premature. The big gun has begun to fire, backed by the smaller artillery.

horses and standing on the Market-square, ready to be moved to any point that may be threatened. We hear that the southern relieving column is north of Vryburg. The townspeople are in splendid spirits in view of our impending relief. Some are half mad with joy, others are quieter in their demonstrations, and some go about with a calm mien, but on every face there are unmistakable signs of happiness. It is only now when we look back that we properly realize the danger that the town has passed through. Reaction has already begun to set in. Baden-Powell is worshipped by the people as a hero; his staff are beginning to get their full share of recognition in the minds of the people. A moment ago a large shell burst with a deafening explosion within twenty yards of the room in which I sit; five smaller ones have passed close in the space of ten minutes. The roads are littered with iron. Up to the present I have only heard of one casualty, a Baralong boy having received a slight flesh wound on his face as he stood in the yard of the soap kitchen opposite my door.

HOPES OF PLUMER.

Noon.—The guns have ceased firing and the town is steeped in quietness. There is a feeling that the Republicans have prepared to retreat from Mafeking, and will go to-night. It is believed that they have got rid of their heavy loads of shell in order that they may not be hampered by the weight of them. The town is literally jumping with joy. The approach of Plumer is the one topic of conversation. The population feel like people about to be taken off a rock-split wreck by the lifeboat. They are weary of the siege and the hardships of war, and I see some who will be as hysterical as schoolgirls when the column marches in. Up to this hour five horses have been killed by the shell-fire, and two white men and two coloured have been struck. The first of these, including Sergeant Abraham, who commanded the "Black Watch," one of the best regiments in the country, and to us a very valuable man whose services will be missed.

3 p.m.—The guns opened fire shortly before luncheon-time, and shelled for nearly an hour. The larger pieces then went out of action, and with the exception of the 1.5. Maxim, they have not again reopened up to the time of despatching. A good deal of house property has been damaged, but, having regard to the weight of fire, we have escaped marvellously. As I close my letter the guns have again opened fire, the 94-pounder sending her shells in the direction of the women's laager. —P. M. Gazette.

ON THE WAY TO ST. HELENA.

I looked at the company. At the table opposite me were the officers, clad in red tunics, and some gentlemen in smoking jackets. The menu was passed round. Terrible moment! I know nothing of English dishes.

"Well you allow me to help you, sir? I have lived much in France, and I might be able to tell you to what dishes of your country ours correspond."

"A hand playing on a stormy night would not cause me greater joy. It is my neighbour on the left who addresses me thus, with just that right lisping so becoming to foreigners."

I pour out my thanks.

"Oh, the least thing we can do is to help you, since you are the first Frenchman here."

"I do not repeat it."

"I would wager," says my neighbour, "that you believe in English pride, in their contempt of the French, and in British *sang gene*."

I try in my turn to find some amiable phrases; "Are you going to the Cape, madam?"

"No, sir; to St. Helena."

Profound astonishment on my part. "Ah! all England, it seems, is going to St. Helena," I say to myself.

"And you, sir?"

"I too, am going to St. Helena, madam."

"Ah, what a surprise!"

"I am going to see the grave of Napoleon."

"You are right to do so, he was such a great figure. I am going to rejoice my husband who has command of the island."

"O the hazard of the voyage! I am sitting next the Countess Bathurst, whose husband is in command at St. Helena, and who is descended from the very minister that sent Napoleon into exile. The father of Lady Bathurst is the proprietor of the *Morning Post*."

"How odd it is!" she says with a smile. "It was the great-grandfather of my husband who exiled your Emperor, and it is my husband who is charged with guarding Kronje. But rest assured that he will be better treated than Napoleon."

"You think, then, that Napoleon was badly treated?"

"Oh, don't speak of it! It is one of the most deplorable pages of our history. It was the fault of that stupid Hudson Lowe, whom they ought never to have selected, and who was so little of a gentleman. He wrote lying letters to London, hid the real state of the Emperor and deceived all the world. This unfortunate man has contributed more than anything to give us the reputation of being cruel."

The Countess stopped. Then, excitedly, "It was like him, that idea of calling him 'General Bonaparte.' It was stupid, and so mean and useless! Just as if he had not the right, more than any one, to be treated as an Emperor to end, he who was so nobly vanquished. That Hudson Lowe is a disgrace to us. Unfortunately, Kronje is not the equal of the other, and his exile will be less to be envied."

The conversation continues about Napoleon, and in the course of it the Countess reveals to me that the manuscript of the "Memorial of St. Helena" belongs to her husband.

"But how," said she, "are you going to put up at St. Helena?"

"At the hotel."

"But there isn't one!"

She laughs very gaily. "Well, you must go and put up at Longwood. Besides, there you will be on French soil."

"Didn't you know it? I didn't before the journey. Longwood was given to France under Napoleon III. I wanted to buy it when my husband was sent there, and it was thus that I learnt the fact."

"Then I shall be in France."

"To be sure you will,"—*Le Malin*.

OMENS ABOUT WEDDING RINGS.

Many believe that the loss of a wedding ring means that the husband's love will be lost in turn. If the ring is broken the husband will soon die. In Ireland it is a general belief that to rub a sore with a golden wedding ring will cause it to speedily heal. The wedding ring is supposed never to tarnish, and if it does become dim, it is said to be a warning that love also is tarnished and dim. A wedding ring should fit the finger. If it is too large it is a sign of shallowness of purpose. If it is too tight, suggests that the union pinches somehow. A perfect-fitting ring is symbolic of a perfectly harmonious union. Every man may select the sentiment to be engraved in his bride's ring. The groom's initials and the bride's initials, followed by the wedding date, is most frequently the inscription. But there are many beautiful sentiments, and individuality and originality in regard to these mottoes are becoming very popular. The date is always engraved in the wedding ring. —A. P. Chronicle.

CAPE TOWN'S MIXED SOCIETY.

CROSS-CURRENTS PRODUCED BY THE WAR.

CAPE TOWN, April 4th, 1900.

"You don't seem very enthusiastic over our beating those treacherous brutes, Miss de Villiers."

"Can you expect it, Major Brown, when my uncle and his three sons were there fighting against you?"

Poor fellow! I felt sorry for him as he gazed in blank amazement at the pretty, fair-haired girl, dressed in perfect taste, who met his glance with quiet self-possession. It was not his fault. He had landed from the last transport, and had whiled away his time on board with papers, illustrated and otherwise, that told him, in the words of the schoolboy, that the Boers had no manners and their customs were beastly, and that their Dutch sympathisers in the Colony were little better.

Yet here he was sitting at a thoroughly English-looking dinner party, gazing across the flowers and silver at a charming vis-a-vis who was little less than a rebel! Not a "crank" from home, mark you, but a young lady of the same blood as the Queen's enemy. She ought to have been a bad lot, coarse-featured, slovenly in dress and manner; it was all very surprising.

It will take our friend the Major, as it has taken the rest of us visitors to this land of paradox, a good many weeks before he will realise how intricate is the problem, how numberless are the cross-currents of Cape politics, even as studied from their social side alone.

THE AFRICANDER'S DREAM.

Carefully must he tread if he wished to avoid tumbling on someone's corns at he dined or at homes of these hospitable folk. There is the rich commercial class, the merchants and bankers, the owners of big "steers" farms, the solidly British, yet a man, who are the young Afrianders, undergraduates of Oxford and Cambridge, barristers of the Inner and Middle Temple, students of the medical schools in London, Glasgow, and Edinburgh, almost as solidly pro-Boer. At heart they have long dreamt of a great Afriander nation in which they and their friends, kinsmen, and fellow-students at Pretoria and Bloemfontein would hold all the fat posts and lucrative offices and be, indeed, a power in South Africa.

Then there is the old Dutch aristocracy, and there is the aristocracy here, with family traditions running back for 250 years, and a conservative pride which, though it has robbed them in many cases of beautiful chateaux and smiling vineyards, still holds them aloof from the despised, money-making crowd of Jews and Gentiles that has poured into the country of late years, even as the Spanish and French grandees of the Southern and Western States of the U. S. A. refused to compete with the pushing Yankees—and as a body the Dutch aristocracy are hopelessly divided.

If Major Brown knew—which assuredly he does not—he has on his right a connection of the famous novelist (why disguise the name?) Miss Olive Schreiner.

THE SCHREINERS.

Of her politics or of those of her husband, Mr. Cronwright-Schreiner—Cron was his maiden name; he changed it to an marrying a "green" Scotch girl—there is no marrying a "green" girl, the Premier, sits uneasily on a rail, letting "I dare not wait upon I would," professing a "gentle neutrality" while her mother an Imperialist of the Imperialists, presented certain moneys that her daughter sent her for the sale of her books in a political league presided over by Mr. Cecil Rhodes. Near the head of the table sits a member of the Cape Ministry in no good odour at Government House.

Yet his sister is a leading Imperialist in N. and even in S. Africa. Only to help us we need a brother is an officer, a common name of Boers being Mafeking, and another is in the column that goes to relieve it, opposite to it sits a member of one of the proudest and oldest families of Dutch-Huguenot race that we have in the colony.

His brother's wife with the Boers, his nephew—a gallant lad of 20—holds a commission in that band of the Boers, the Imperial Light Horse; his wife is in mourning for the dead among her old friends in Pretoria, where she was born and bred. Are not these instances enough? I could give a dozen more, equally true, equally perplexing, equally painful.

SOCIAL LIFE IS SPLINTERED.

Into the social life at the Cape the war has fallen like a shell, tearing and rending old ties and old associations. There was none of this talk about Dutch and English before this war, and now it is a matter of life and death. "We differed, may be, but only in a friendly spirit. Now you can't imagine how bitter the feeling is. Many people have given up their 'at homes' for the ladies fell to talking of the war, and the scenes that followed were really scandalous."

"It was only the other day that a Dutch lady, after a violent quarrel with her hostess, an English woman by birth but her friend since girlhood, rushed out of the latter's house sobbing as she went that if the soldiers killed her brother in the Transvaal service she would teach her children to hate the very name of England—and that, too, at an afternoon tea party, with a score or more of people present."

"I wish to goodness we could muzzle the Cape press," said a good-natured English-merchant of my acquaintance. "I'm an Imperialist heart and soul, but this continual abuse fairly sickens me. If a man is a moderate, both sides set to work and bound him down as if he were a pickpocket or worse. 'Blood-thirsty furies,' shrieks the 'South African News' 'traitor,' 'trebel,' 'political magnate' bellow the 'Cape Times' and the 'Argus.' From the way the Rhodes-supporting papers talk you might imagine that every man with a Dutch name must be a rebel. Look at the result! The cleavage between the two parties grows broader day by day. You can't even invite your old friends to dinner without carefully considering what their opinions on the war may be. Everyone seems to forget that we shall have to live together after the war, and the more we rave and howl at one another the more difficult will it be to settle down. It's sheer tomfoolery—that's what I call it!"

PRO-BOERS BLACKMAILED.

Go where you will, the same facts confront you. Men are blackmailed for Boer sympathies, the race-course committee expelled one of its members for a similar reason; even in trams and railway carriages the opposite parties draw apart and scowl mutual defiance as fiercely as did the free and independent voters in the good old times of county elections in England; with this difference however, that whereas politics have always been regarded somewhat in the light of a popular amusement at home, to be swept away when outside danger threatens the country here the people are in objection, deadly earnest.

The curious observer—a most objectionable individual to have about the place, but interesting withal—will find much food for reflection and subsequent "copy" by visiting the Green Point camp of the Boer prisoners.

half in fear, half in delight at the "terrible creatures," "harking heaven in no measured terms that the 'blood-thirsty ruffians' are caged at last, without a thought of the black-clothed women beside her, who are striving to catch a glimpse through the bars of uncles, cousins, and even brothers from over the border; now it is a freshly-landed party of Militiamen, who indulge in an occasional cat call and a "Vat price St. Helena? Now it is a couple of Imperial Yeomanry, or bronzed Regulars, who gaze almost sympathetically upon their beaten foes, and pass away in silence, the former because they are gentlemen and sportsmen by birth and breeding, the latter because he who has seen service in many lands becomes a war-made gentleman and sportsman too, respecting a brave enemy alike in the hour of victory and defeat.

THE CAPE DUTCH ARE LOYAL.

They all represent types of English opinion; but scarce a single one of them understands the curious position of the loitering colonists around them, Dutch even as the prisoners within are Dutch, of the same Boer speech, of the same Boer religion, yet, and to their honour be it spoken, in vast majority of cases loyal to the Queen, under whose protecting hand they and their fathers lived and prospered. Oh, my English friends, you who may do me the honour to read what now I write, do not call me a pro-Boer, whatever that may mean, and give me up in disgust! My political confession of faith is sound, I believe neither in the Conciliation Committee presided over by such impossible folk as earnest Temple Hargrave, nor do I ask you to "stop the war." I would have the British flag flying at Bloemfontein and Pretoria now and for all time.

But do not be blindly led by screaming newspapers in this "Land of lies" into the belief that the Dutch are all to be traitors, that those of them who have fallen from grace, and who, remembering—even as we and the Americans have remembered—that "blood is thicker than water," in their folly joined their kinsmen when the Boers came riding over the border, rifle on rifle, must be set against walls in the best Russo-Spanish methods. Deal gently with them, for the temptation was great, and the penalty for loyalty was a home wrecked and plundered and wages paid in blood.

But the hundreds of Dutch name and Dutch blood who are even now fighting gallantly for our country and our Queen in a dozen Cape-raised regiments of horse.

FLETCHER ROBINSON.

—The R. Times.

HOW GEMS MAY BE MANUFACTURED.

One of the most striking articles in the May number of the *Windsor Magazine* deals with the wonderful developments that are being opened up in Science by the Electrical Furnaces at Niagara Falls. So far they have not yet succeeded in manufacturing diamonds in quantities, but the day does not seem far distant when even these will be shipped from the Falls in peck boxes. The origin of the discovery was as follows:—Mr. Acheson conjectured that carbon if not combined with clay, would produce an extremely hard substance; and that, having been combined with the clay, it should in the cooling separate again from the clay, it would issue out of the operation as diamond. He therefore mixed a little clay and coke dust together, placed them in a crucible, inserted the ends of two electric-light carbons into the mixture, and connected the carbons with a dynamo. The fierce heat generated at the points of the carbon fused the clay, and caused portions of the carbon to dissolve. After cooling, a careful examination was made of the mass, and a few small purple crystals were found. They sparkled with something of the brightness of diamonds, and were so hard that they scratched glass. Mr. Acheson decided at once that they could not be diamonds, but he thought they might be rubies or sapphires. A little later, though, when he had made similar crystals of a larger size, he found that they were harder than rubies, even scratching the diamond itself. He showed them to a number of expert jewellers, chemists, and geologists. They had so much the appearance of gems that many experts to whom they were submitted without explanation decided that they must certainly be of natural production. Even so eminent an authority as Geikie, the Scotch geologist on being told, that he had examined them, that the crystals were manufactured in America, responded easily, "These Americans! What won't they claim next? Why, man, these crystals have been in the earth a million years." —L. Chronicle.

NOVEL PARISIAN DINNER IDEA.

The Prince de Poix, who is one of the heads of the ancient ducal house of Noailles, has introduced a novelty in the art of serving great dinners. At a banquet recently held in his palace, in the Avenue du Bois de Boulogne, in Paris, the courses were announced by kineograph, instead of by bill of fare, as customary. The Prince adopted this new science with a view to reminding his guests of the amount of danger and work involved by catering to their palates. He refused to cater to the point of his argument, and says the New York Journal, in reporting the incident, turned his sermon into a jest.

The banquet-room was steeped in the low, soft light of a few candles only, when the ladies and gentlemen sat down to the repast. A white silk screen hid the great wall facing the table, which was placed in the shape of a horseshoe. After the Prince's house chaplain had pronounced grace—for all his 50 guests belonged to the Catholic aristocracy—the screen suddenly lit up, and there appeared on its smooth surface a scene from the British coast, showing a number of men and women trying to save themselves and their oyster boats from a storm which was about to swamp their boats, while wailing children and old women stood on shore, wringing their hands and crying to God for mercy. After the guests had taken in this scene, the electric lights went up, and they found their plates loaded with most delicious oysters on powdered ice.

The second course, ragout soup, was prefaced by a scene from the Island of Sumatra, hundreds of half-naked coolies, driven by the whips of cruel overseers, gathering the corn by cutting and splitting palm stems under a broiling sun. In the next picture, the royal sturgeon which the Prince's guests were about to enjoy cost the lives of two brave fishermen out in the storm to earn their unuttered bread. Before the roast was served, the ladies and gentlemen had to make a tour of an abattoir—patient, revolting animals killed and cut up before the very eyes of the guests, and there appeared the very same men in blood-stained garments, involuntarily detail.

The pictorial bill of fare made known the cook's readiness to bring on the pheasants, by two scenes—King Henry pronouncing the wish that every Frenchman have a chicken in his pot at least once a week and an actual photograph of the poor quarters in Paris, where the miserable dine off dog stool, washing it down with fuel. Dessert was ushered in by similar gruesome scenes—poor, ragged children searching the trash barrels for food, while the dogs of the rich dine luxuriously at Dresden and refuse to eat groats unless it is served ahead of season.

"It will be seen," comments the Journal, "that the Prince de Poix's sermon lends itself easily to burlesque, inasmuch as it is but necessary to substitute lovely and joyful scenes from life for those selected. It is announced that many fashionable dames have already gotten up lists of pictorial bills of fare, in which the classic, as well as the more recent school of painter, are represented by some of their masterpieces." —R. Chronicle.

SOME ROYAL MUSICIANS.

Nowadays musicians are not looked down upon as they used to be, and the change is greatly due to the fact that the Queen and the late Prince Consort—themselves musicians of no mean order—both honoured music and musicians, and helped greatly to bring music into the position it now holds in England. Everyone knows how the Prince Consort and the Queen honoured Handel, whose music still delights Her Majesty. The Prince Consort himself composed many chorales and a good deal of church music which is very musically, and is still played. All the Royal children had the best musicians to educate them, and not only were they taught to sing and play, but also to study the principles of harmony and composition. One result of this is shown in the charming song of Princess Henry of Battenberg, who arranged Lord Beaconsfield's "Green Cavalier's Song," as well as Heine's "Im wunderschönen Monat Mai."

Princess Henry and her daughters are very musical. The Princess herself is a good pianist, and for many years she and her daughters have attended Mr. Chappell's popular concerts. The late Duchess of Teck was extremely musical, and was always ready to encourage talent. She was particularly fond of the cello playing of M. Hollman. The Empress Frederick is an all-round, accomplished woman—good musician, linguist, painter, and politician—and was the especial pride of her father, the late Prince Consort, by reason of her talents.

Princess Henry has always played the piano, and can read anything at first sight. She passes many hours in trying out duets with her Maid of Honour, Miss Minnie Cochrane, who also composes songs and reads music perfectly at sight. Princess Henry's children have all been brought up in a musical atmosphere, and are very gifted. The eldest boy attracts attention by the great contentment which is visible on his face when music is being played at the Castle.

The Duke of Saxe-Coburg is a violinist, and used, at times, to play in the Albert Hall Orchestra. Both he and the Prince of Wales preside at some of the smoking concerts given by the Madrigal Society and the Amateur Orchestral Society. Princess Helena (Princess Christian) has a pleasant singing voice—as Her Majesty once had. In the winter Her Royal Highness attends Sir Walter Parratt's Choral Society at Windsor, and seems to enjoy the practice immensely.

POISED ON A WHIRLPOOL.

An old gentleman, hearing an account from his nephew of the latter having once looked down the crater of a volcano, shivered with horror. "But, uncle," remarked the young adventurer, "one wants to see the world, you know." "Well, for my part, I'm contented with the outside of it," was the answer. This (says a writer in "Chums") was a sentiment evidently not shared by the narrator of the following story, who, just for the novelty of the thing, was once poised on the edge of a whirlpool, while he peered into it out of a boat (he says) to see this whirlpool in the Yangtze River, China. As we approached the outer edge of the circle, the funnel-shaped cone in the centre, about five feet in depth, was distinctly seen; occasionally pieces of floating wood were caught up in the circling water, to be spun round and round, till they reached the centre, when, after one or two turns, they would disappear with the strong downward suction. The whirlpool was not strong enough to do anything more than play with a junk of the size of ours, but had we been in a small rowing boat, we should have been sucked right into the formidable depths. As it was, the affair was perilous enough, and the excitement intense. Round we went, and after having reached the vortex, which was now directly under the keel of the boat, the motion became extremely unpleasant: we were simply turning round and round, as though fixed on a pivot, and at anything but a slow speed. On looking over the side, there was the horrible cone straight underneath us, like the mouth of some huge sea monster, ready to swallow everything that approached. It was terrifying. Only a few inches of wood intervened between us and that churning mass of water. I soon had enough of this sickening "roundabout," a dizziness swept over me, and I shouted to my men to pull out. Instantly twenty oars gripped the water and we slowly but surely drew away from that horrid gulf. Had there been more water in the river, the whirlpool would have been too strong for us; and boat, men, and everything would have been sucked down like a wisp of straw.

VANITY IN THE SICKROOM.

"During all my twenty years' experience of patients," remarked a lady nurse "I have never met with anything more extraordinary than the craving which fashionable women have for looking at themselves in the glass when they are ill in bed."

"Many society beauties have been under my care, and I must say that the less I have to do with them, the better I shall be pleased. I have known the women fainted by the looks to stagger off to bed when they were in the greatest agony of pain to snatch a glance of themselves in the glass, while others have insisted on keeping a hand mirror under their pillows, and even sometimes of having the pier-glass brought to the bedside."

"A vain and pretty woman, no matter from what folk disease she may be suffering, is far more troubled by the fear that she may possibly lose her beauty than by the pain she has to bear. Her one thought is her personal appearance, and it is a frightful thing to witness her torture of mind when the fact is brought home to her for the first time that when she rises from her bed it will not be as a handsome woman, but as a faded beauty whose facial charms have gone for ever."

"A patient of mine—a lady celebrated for her magnificent face and figure—on learning that the fever with which she had been battling had robbed her of all her physical attractions, completely lost control of herself, and flying into an unbecomable fury tore the sheets on her bed to rags, and finally made a dash for a bottle containing poison, and tried to commit suicide. Filled in the attempt, she fought like a madwoman, scattering ornaments here, there, and everywhere, and had to be strapped to the mattress."

"These exhibitions of vanity seem absurd; but they are not a little pathetic. With society women viewing each other as they are at the present moment, it is a serious thing for a lady whose appearance is her fortune and the fountain of her popularity to be suddenly deprived of her main source of enjoyment."

WHY MY LADY IS ALWAYS LATE.

When a man decides to go out he picks up his overcoat, flings himself into it, slips his hat on his head "any old way," lights a cigar and off he strides. But when a woman makes up her mind to go out, she is another story, and a far more long-drawn one.

The odds are that she resolves over her when she is either stretched out in an easy chair, in some loose, comfortable garment, perusing the last new novel, or else she has just been enjoying the luxury of an afternoon nap, while "visions of bargain sales danced through her head."

Having roused herself to the exertion of getting dressed, she begins the regular and seldom varied programme that nearly every woman goes through with each time she gets ready to go out. Occasionally one discovers a woman who doesn't feel called upon to perform all these little acts, but she is the exception that proves the rule.

If she is just the average development of the eternal feminine the first thing she does is to tighten up her shoe laces. The woman has never yet been found whose shoes were too tight about her pretty ankles, and so the laces must be drawn snug and taut, each time the fair manipulator makes ready to go out, whether the shoes have been worn all day or whether they have but just replaced the dainty house slippers. It's a nuisance and a bother, and a woman grumbles every time she has to do it; but she keeps on doing it just the same, and will, so long as laced shoes are fashionable, unless, as a result, blood blisters or chilblains put in an appearance and she is not able to wear shoes at all. With her feet well and comfortably clad a woman feels prepared to go forth and fight all the battles of life.

So, having girded on her armor, as it were, the next thing done by the pretty creature who is planning an outdoor jaunt is to investigate the condition of her back hair. There never was a woman yet who did not protest loudly that her hair was an awful nuisance, and that she would like to be bald as added as a Rocky mountain eagle. She invariably pretends that she hates "doing" it, and yet, if the truth were known, every woman in creation loves her back hair as she loves no other portion of her physical organism. She loves to squeeze and press the wayward locks into place with her white and slender fingers, for she knows full well this is a pretty, graceful action that all men know and admire. So, whenever she makes ready to go out, she lifts the handglass, and, gazing at her back hair, wonders if it will have to be done over.

This ponderous question settled, she next slips into her skirt and waist, taking care to fasten the one to the other, for, unlike heaven and the baldheaded man, to whom it is sometimes likened, there is apt to be considerable "parting" there if this little precaution be neglected.

Then she takes a survey of her nose, to make sure that it shineth not. Some women's noses glow with the effulgence of a newly polished dishpan. If the particular woman who is getting ready to go out is one of this class, and at the same time one of those strong-minded ladies who want to rail against the use of powder, she tempers the shine on it by means of a gentle polishing with a soft linen handkerchief, perhaps moistened with a bit of eau de Cologne. If, however, she be one of the women to whom a modicum of powder is not only a comfort, but a necessity, she dabs a little of it on the member which is apt to be quite as unruly as the tongue. In any event, her nose is certain to be an object of solicitude before she faces her kind on the street.

Then she does her hair, prodding it carefully with her pins, so that it will keep its place properly, for a woman's hat sometimes displays as great an unwillingness to do this as does an untrained servant girl.

This important adjunct of her toilette settled to her entire satisfaction, she takes up her veil, and, standing before the mirror, she tries time after time to adjust it. Before she has it arranged

